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State Overview

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE AT 5.0 PERCENT IN APRIL

Idaho's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 5.0 percent for April 2001. This was a jump up from the March 2001 rate of 4.5 percent. This increase is not as significant when compared to the April 2000 rate of 4.9 percent. The Nation's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for April was 4.5 percent, an increase from the 4.3 percent rate in March. State Table 3 has the detailed labor force data for Idaho.

The growth in April's seasonally adjusted labor force was caused by increases in both employed and unemployed individuals, although the percentage change in the number of individuals unemployed far out-distanced the growth in the number of employed. Seasonally adjusted, the number of unemployed increased by 10.5 percent from March. This occurred, in part, because of the seasonal adjustment model as the seasonally unadjusted number of unemployed individuals actually decreased from March. The number of employed individuals increased for the 15th consecutive month, with an increase of 3,500 persons to a seasonally adjusted total of 645,900. The unadjusted series estimates there were 9,200 more individuals employed in April than in March.

The year-over-year growth in the *Civilian Labor Force* from April 2000 was 3.9 percent—an increase of 25,700 persons. Between April 2000 and April 2001, there were 1,900 more persons unemployed and 23,800 more persons employed. This translates into a 6.0 percent increase in unemployment and a 3.8 percent increase in employment. The unemployment increase was because of normal seasonal changes, but it also reflects recent layoffs and facility closures, primarily in the lumber products industries.

April's 5.0 percent unemployment rate is almost the same as the annual average rate for 2000, which was 4.9 percent. The 2000 annual average rate was below 5.0 percent for the first time since 1990.

AREA LABOR FORCE HIGHLIGHTS

Labor force statistics are calculated each month for eight Labor Market Areas (LMAs) in Idaho—Boise City MSA, Pocatello City MSA, Bonneville LMA, Cassia-Minidoka LMA, Idaho-Lewis LMA, Magic Valley LMA, Panhandle LMA, and Seaport LMA. State Table 1 lists the counties included in each Labor Market Area.

The Idaho-Lewis LMA in North Central Idaho once again had the highest unemployment rate of any labor market area in Idaho. The area's April unemployment rate stood at 10.1 percent, up nine-tenths of a percentage point from the previous month and above the 9.5 percent level for April 2000. The Panhandle's 9.1 percent unemployment rate was the highest rate in a LMA with a labor force in excess of 40,000 persons. The Bonneville LMA in eastern Idaho had the lowest unemployment rate at 3.6 percent. The Boise City MSA, which includes about 36

percent of the state's labor force, had an unemployment rate of 3.8 percent.

COUNTY LABOR FORCE HIGHLIGHTS

The wide variation in county unemployment rates, which is the norm for Idaho, is shown in State Table 1. In April, five counties had double-digit unemployment rates, and four counties had unemployment rates less than 3.0 percent.

With a 14.4 percent unemployment rate, Adams County in Southwestern Idaho had the highest unemployment rate, up from 13.0 percent in March and up from 13.1 percent in April 2000. The other four counties with double-digit unemployment rates were Clearwater at 14.1 percent, Shoshone at 13.2 percent, Benewah at 11.6 percent, and Idaho at 10.5 percent. The list of the double-digit unemployment rate counties changes from month to month, but they always share the common characteristic of being dependent upon natural resource industries—either timber products or mining.

With a 2.0 percent unemployment rate, Madison County in North Eastern Idaho had the lowest unemployment rate, up from 1.9 percent in March and down from 2.4 percent in April 2000. The other three counties with an unemployment rate less than 3.0 percent were Teton at 2.2 percent, Blaine at 2.5 percent, and Butte at 3.0 percent. Butte and Teton counties have a small labor force and small changes in the number of individuals employed or unemployed can have a significant effect on the unemployment rate.

AGRICULTURE EMPLOYMENT

Agricultural employment usually gains momentum in April, and this year was no exception. The number of hired workers increased by nearly 25 percent from March. Field preparation, planting, irrigation equipment preparation, dairy activities, and livestock management were the primary activities. Wages for hired workers vary by job tasks and location, but 2001 wage rates for hired workers are generally in the \$6.00-\$8.50 per hour range. Truck drivers and other equipment operators might be offered an hourly wage rate that averages \$9.00 per hour. Some hired farm workers are also provided housing.

In spite of the build-up in April from March, agricultural employment is below the April 2000 level. There are several reasons for this:

- » Most commodity prices have been significantly depressed and are expected or projected to remain so for this year. A diversion scheme from the market of existing potato stocks is in existence. Potatoes are being donated to charity, converted into animal feed, or simply plowed under. This is an attempt to increase prices for the potatoes growers have in storage and for next fall's harvest.
- » An electrical energy "buy-back" program is in effect for most of Southern Idaho. This energy conservation program is targeted to large farms that use high levels of electricity for irrigation pumping from wells or flowing water sources. The producers who participate in this program most likely will farm less acreage, hire fewer irrigators, or both.

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Or to the Labor Market Analyst noted in each area news section.

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- » It is highly unlikely there will be much water in the flowing streams later this summer to use for irrigation. Many areas of Idaho are in a drought condition due to a lack of mountain snow pack and the moisture content of what snow pack there has been. The producers who irrigate from flowing water depend upon a season-long supply of water. Some growers are responding to this problem by not planting as many acres as usual and/or planting less water intensive crops, such as grains, instead of row crops. Because row crops generally are more labor intensive than grains (or fallow land), the demand for farm workers is expected to decline.
- » None of the major water basins in Idaho have even an average amount of water. This month's FYI section contains a summary from the Snow Survey Office of the U.S. Department of Agriculture and describes the bleak Idaho water situation.

Information on what crops are grown in a particular area, what work activity is involved, the dates labor is usually needed for each activity, and the associated wage rates can be found on the following Internet site: <http://www.labor.state.id.us/LMI/PUBS/cropact.pdf>. This site also provides a local Job Service contact if you need more information.

The latest information on agriculture activity in the five major areas of the state (North Idaho, Southwest Idaho, Southcentral Idaho, Southeast Idaho, and North-east Idaho) is located on the Internet at: <http://www.labor.state.id.us/lmi/pubs/farmlabor.pdf>. This information is updated every two weeks.

EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs in April increased by 4,500 jobs from March to 560,900, an increase of eight-tenths of a percentage point. The *Goods-Producing Industries* gained 1,300 jobs from March to April. The *Services-Producing Industries* added 3,200 jobs from the March jobs estimate.

A similar growth trend occurred between April 2000 and April 2001 with an increase of 7,900 jobs. However this job growth was in the *Services-Producing Industries* as there was a year-over-year job loss of 2,100 in the *Goods-Producing Industries* while the *Service-Producing Industries* added 10,000 jobs.

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs peaked at 571,900 in September 2000. Since then there has been a slow decline in the number of jobs. Because these estimates are based on a

State Table 1: April 2001 Labor Force (preliminary)

Seasonally Adjusted	Labor Force	Unemp.	% Unemp.	Total Emp.
Seaport LMA	34,600	1,620	4.7	32,980
Nez Perce County	22,990	1,020	4.4	21,970
Asotin County, WA	11,610	600	5.2	11,010
Boise City MSA	248,110	9,330	3.8	238,780
Ada County	179,250	5,730	3.2	173,520
Canyon County	68,860	3,600	5.2	65,260
Pocatello City MSA*	40,500	1,710	4.2	38,790
Bonneville LMA	82,500	2,940	3.6	79,560
Bingham County	22,520	980	4.4	21,540
Bonneville County	47,840	1,560	3.3	46,280
Butte County	1,640	50	3.0	1,590
Jefferson County	10,500	350	3.4	10,150
Cassia-Minidoka LMA	19,050	1,110	5.8	17,940
Cassia County	9,450	520	5.5	8,930
Minidoka County	9,600	590	6.1	9,010
Idaho-Lewis LMA	7,940	800	10.1	7,140
Idaho County	6,345	665	10.5	5,680
Lewis County	1,595	135	8.5	1,460
Panhandle LMA	91,330	8,320	9.1	83,010
Benewah County	4,510	520	11.6	3,990
Bonner County	17,790	1,590	8.9	16,200
Boundary County	4,615	435	9.4	4,180
Kootenai County	57,530	4,870	8.5	52,660
Shoshone County	6,890	910	13.2	5,980
Magic Valley LMA	48,230	1,970	4.1	46,260
Gooding County	6,720	255	3.8	6,465
Jerome County	9,010	340	3.7	8,670
Twin Falls County	32,510	1,380	4.3	31,130
Adams County	1,640	230	1.2	1,410
Bear Lake County	2,800	110	3.9	2,690
Blaine County	11,860	295	2.5	11,565
Boise County	2,630	110	4.3	2,520
Camas County	405	15	4.1	390
Caribou County	3,080	180	5.8	2,900
Clark County	610	25	4.4	585
Clearwater County	3,900	550	14.1	3,350
Custer County	2,270	190	8.5	2,080
Elmore County	9,440	590	6.2	8,850
Franklin County	4,860	190	3.9	4,670
Fremont County	4,695	335	7.1	4,360
Gem County	6,425	405	6.3	6,020
Latah County	14,830	520	3.5	14,310
Lemhi County	3,565	295	8.3	3,270
Lincoln County	1,930	80	4.0	1,850
Madison County	11,430	230	2.0	11,200
Oneida County	1,840	70	3.9	1,770
Owyhee County	4,215	205	4.9	4,010
Payette County	10,400	750	7.2	9,650
Power County	3,660	260	7.1	3,400
Teton County	3,495	75	2.2	3,420
Valley County	4,270	330	7.7	3,940
Washington County	4,740	400	8.4	4,340
State of Idaho	679,600	33,650	5.0	645,950
Idaho Cities				
Boise	113,560	3,550	3.1	110,010
Coeur d'Alene	20,300	1,320	6.5	18,980
Idaho Falls	29,580	1,000	3.4	28,580
Lewiston	19,675	775	3.9	18,900
Nampa	21,060	1,170	5.6	19,890
Pocatello	29,160	1,190	4.1	27,970
Twin Falls	17,010	750	4.4	16,260

* Pocatello MSA includes all of Bannock County.

monthly survey of a sample of Idaho employers, there are ups and downs in the estimates. These are due to survey response, seasonal variations, changes in full-time vs. part-time job holding, and statistical estimating procedures. However, it is clear there has been slight erosion in the number of *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* in recent months. This has led to a rethinking of *State Government* revenue projections produced by the Governor's Office of The Division of Financial Management. The projections are based on a model that is quite dependent upon employment levels and job trends. The Division of Financial Management's economists stated:

"...In the prior forecast, Idaho Nonfarm employment was expected to grow by at least 2.0% annually through 2004. Idaho Nonfarm employment is now projected to grow by less than 2.0% during the next two years before picking up speed in 2003 and 2004. By 2004, the forecast is for 605,443 jobs in Idaho. This is roughly 7,100 fewer jobs than had previously been anticipated."

Source: Idaho Economic Forecast, April 2001

INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENTS

The number of *Construction* jobs increased by 1,900 from March. This reflects the normal seasonal build-up in these industries. All *Construction* components added jobs, with *Special Trades* leading the way at nearly 800 new jobs. However, the year-over-year change was negative, with a loss of 600 jobs. In reality, this is a small percentage loss, but concerns about the national and state economies have put a damper on the housing market. It is anticipated that as the population and number of jobs increase on a monthly basis, so will the year-over-year growth.

The *Lumber and Wood Products* industries had another month of job loss, with 400 fewer jobs in April than in March. *Logging* was down by 300 jobs, or 18.8 percent, of the March level. The loss can be attributed to several factors: rainy weather resulting in muddy lands and roads, recent sawmill closures and layoffs, lumber inventory and prices, and reduced stumpage sales on Federal lands. These causes have existed for several years and the result has been declining employment levels not only in *Logging* but also in the *Lumber and Wood Products* industries. This industry group lost 1,800 jobs from April 2000, a 15 percent decrease. A significant recovery is unlikely to happen in the near future.

The high-tech industry of *Industrial & Commercial Machinery & Computer Equipment* experienced a 600-job loss from March to April. Several Treasure Valley firms that manufacture computers have been reducing jobs since January in order to reduce costs and remain competi-

tive, with most of the job losses occurring in March and April.

Job losses were also reported in the other high-tech manufacturing industry, *Electronic & Other Electric Equipment & Components, except Computers*. However, a major manufacturer expanded its workforce in March and April, offsetting the losses and resulting in a gain of 100 jobs. The increase in the number of jobs was less than one percent of this industry's job total but it was positive, and the 10.9 percent growth rate from April 2000 was the highest of any Idaho manufacturing industry for which statistics are published.

There was a slight job loss in the *Food Processing* industries from March to April and year-over-year. The loss was in the *Canned, Frozen, & Preserved Fruits & Vegetables, & Food Specialties*, as most of the 2000 potato crop has been processed. The sugar processing plants also completed the majority of their processing in April.

The *Service-Producing Industries* continued to gain jobs on both the month-to-month and year-over-year basis. The job growth from March was slightly below the state's average, but the growth rate from April 2000 was considerably above the state's average. The industries adding the most jobs were *Retail Trade* and *Services*. There was positive job growth in almost all of the specific industries in these two groups. Year-over-year growth was particularly strong in *General Merchandise Stores*, as several "big box" stores have opened during the last twelve months.

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State Table 2: Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

BY PLACE OF WORK	Apr 2001*	Mar 2001	Apr 2000	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs	560,900	556,400	553,000	0.8	1.4
GOODS-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	110,600	109,300	112,700	1.2	-1.9
Mining	2,400	2,200	2,400	9.1	0.0
Metal Mining	1,000	1,000	1,200	0.0	-16.7
Construction	34,000	32,100	34,600	5.9	-1.7
Manufacturing	74,200	75,000	75,700	-1.1	-2.0
Durable Goods	45,700	46,400	47,000	-1.5	-2.8
Lumber & Wood Products	10,200	10,600	12,000	-3.8	-15.0
Logging	1,300	1,600	1,400	-18.8	-7.1
Sawmills & Planing Mills	4,200	4,200	4,900	0.0	-14.3
Wood Buildings & Mobile Homes	1,000	1,000	1,400	0.0	-28.6
Other Lumber & Wood Products	3,700	3,800	4,300	-2.6	-14.0
Stone, Clay, Glass & Concrete Products	1,400	1,400	1,400	0.0	0.0
Fabricated Metal Products, exc. Machinery & Transportation Equip.	3,000	2,900	3,100	3.4	-3.2
Industrial & Commercial Machinery & Computer Equipment	9,700	10,300	10,300	-5.8	-5.8
Electronic & Other Electrical Equip. & Components, Exc., Computer	15,300	15,200	13,800	0.7	10.9
Transportation Equipment	2,300	2,300	2,600	0.0	-11.5
Other Durable Goods	3,800	3,700	3,800	2.7	0.0
Nondurable Goods	28,500	28,600	28,700	-0.3	-0.7
Food Processing	16,600	16,800	16,800	-1.2	-1.2
Canned, Frozen, & Preserved Fruits, Vegetables & Food Specialties	9,200	9,300	9,600	-1.1	-4.2
Paper Products	2,100	2,100	2,300	0.0	-8.7
Printing, Publishing & Allied Products	5,500	5,400	5,400	1.9	1.9
Chemicals & Allied Products	2,300	2,300	2,200	0.0	4.5
Other Nondurable Goods	2,000	2,000	2,000	0.0	0.0
SERVICE-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	450,300	447,100	440,300	0.7	2.3
Transportation, Communications, & Utilities	27,700	27,800	27,300	-0.4	1.5
Transportation	16,900	17,000	16,900	-0.6	0.0
Railroad	1,400	1,400	1,500	0.0	-6.7
Motor Freight Transportation & Warehousing	9,600	9,700	9,900	-1.0	-3.0
Communications	6,900	7,000	6,400	-1.4	7.8
Electric, Gas, & Sanitary Services	3,900	3,800	4,000	2.6	-2.5
Trade	141,800	140,600	138,700	0.9	2.2
Wholesale Trade	33,500	33,500	32,800	0.0	2.1
Durable Goods	15,600	15,700	15,300	-0.6	2.0
Nondurable Goods	17,900	17,800	17,500	0.6	2.3
Retail Trade	108,300	107,100	105,900	1.1	2.3
Building Materials, Hardware, Garden Supply & Manuf. Home Dealers	6,500	6,200	6,900	4.8	-5.8
General Merchandise Stores	13,300	13,200	11,400	0.8	16.7
Food Stores	19,800	19,600	19,300	1.0	2.6
Automotive Dealers & Gasoline Service Stations	11,900	11,600	12,000	2.6	-0.8
Eating & Drinking Places	37,600	37,200	37,300	1.1	0.8
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	23,500	23,500	23,300	0.0	0.9
Banking	7,200	7,200	7,300	0.0	-1.4
Services	146,200	144,100	140,900	1.5	3.8
Hotels & Other Lodging Places	7,700	7,700	8,000	0.0	-3.8
Personal Services	4,700	4,600	4,600	2.2	2.2
Business Services	28,700	28,300	27,200	1.4	5.5
Amusement and Recreation Services	7,000	6,700	7,300	4.5	-4.1
Health Services	37,200	36,700	35,300	1.4	5.4
Hospitals	12,100	12,000	11,500	0.8	5.2
Engineering, Accounting, Research, Management, & Related Services	18,300	18,300	17,400	0.0	5.2
Government	111,100	111,100	110,100	0.0	0.9
Federal Government	12,800	12,500	14,100	2.4	-9.2
State & Local Government	98,300	98,600	96,000	-0.3	2.4
State Government	29,300	29,400	29,100	-0.3	0.7
Education	14,500	14,800	14,100	-2.0	2.8
Administration	14,800	14,600	15,000	1.4	-1.3
Local Government	69,000	69,200	66,900	-0.3	3.1
Education	39,900	40,100	38,500	-0.5	3.6
Administration	29,100	29,100	28,400	0.0	2.5

*-Preliminary Estimate

2-Estimates include all full or part time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay in the following industry groups during the pay period ending nearest the 12th of the month.

DATA PREPARED IN COOPERATION WITH THE BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS

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State Table 3: Economic Indicators

State Table C: Economic Indicators

	Apr 2001	Mar 2001	Apr 2000	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
IDAHO LABOR FORCE ⁽¹⁾					
Seasonally Adjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	679,600	672,900	653,900	1.0	3.9
Unemployment	33,700	30,500	31,800	10.5	6.0
Percent of Labor Force Unemployed	5.0	4.5	4.9		
Total Employment	645,900	642,400	622,100	0.5	3.8
Unadjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	673,200	665,900	647,500	1.1	4.0
Unemployment	35,100	37,000	33,300	-5.1	5.4
Percent of Labor Force Unemployed	5.2	5.6	5.1		
Total Employment	638,100	628,900	614,200	1.5	3.9
U. S. UNEMPLOYMENT RATE ⁽²⁾					
	4.5	4.3	4.0		
U.S. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX ⁽²⁾					
Urban Wage Earners & Clerical Workers (CPI-W)	173.5	172.6	168.0	0.5	3.3
All Urban Consumer (CPI-U)	176.9	176.2	171.3	0.4	3.3
AGRICULTURE					
Agriculture Employment	34,300	29,320	34,870	17.0	-1.6
Operators	9,010	9,010	9,010	0.0	0.0
Unpaid Family	560	430	560	30.2	0.0
Hired Workers	24,730	19,880	25,300	24.4	-2.3
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE					
Claims Activities					
Initial Claims ⁽³⁾	8,600	8,810	6,769	-2.4	27.0
Weeks Claimed ⁽⁴⁾	80,249	82,282	54,087	-2.5	48.4
Benefit Payment Activities⁽⁵⁾					
Weeks Compensated	57,986	71,951	46,565	-19.4	24.5
Total Benefit \$ Paid	12,298,759	15,401,747	9,363,211	-20.1	31.4
Average Weekly Benefit Amount	\$212.10	\$214.06	\$201.08	-0.9	5.5
Covered Employers	39,854	39,867	38,298	0.0	4.1
Total Benefit \$ Paid During Last 12 Months ⁽⁴⁾	\$116,575,492	\$113,639,944	\$104,189,002	2.6	11.9

(1) Preliminary Estimate

(2) Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

(3) Includes all entitlements/programs on Intrastate and Interstate Agent, New, and Additional Claims

(4) Includes all entitlements/programs, Intrastate and Interstate Agent

(5) Includes all entitlements/programs, Total Liabile Activities

HOURS AND EARNINGS

	Average Weekly Earnings*			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Apr 2001	Mar 2001	Apr 2000	Apr 2001	Mar 2001	Apr 2000	Apr 2001	Mar 2001	Apr 2000
Mining	\$598.30	\$582.40	\$620.96	37.7	36.4	42.3	\$15.87	\$16.00	\$14.68
Construction	\$602.27	\$591.38	\$566.10	37.2	36.8	37.0	\$16.19	\$16.07	\$15.30
Total Manufacturing	\$562.86	\$583.76	\$532.35	37.7	39.1	39.0	\$14.93	\$14.93	\$13.65
Lumber & Wood Products	\$491.59	\$478.02	\$489.72	35.7	35.2	37.7	\$13.77	\$13.58	\$12.99
Food & Kindred Products	\$427.83	\$460.60	\$454.40	37.3	39.3	40.0	\$11.47	\$11.72	\$11.36
Communications	\$755.36	\$748.43	\$692.54	42.7	42.5	41.1	\$17.69	\$17.61	\$16.85
Electric, Gas, & Sanitary Services	\$884.52	\$878.33	\$943.93	40.5	39.6	42.5	\$21.84	\$22.18	\$22.21
Trade	\$339.60	\$327.04	\$310.36	30.0	29.2	29.9	\$11.32	\$11.20	\$10.38
Wholesale Trade	\$536.90	\$527.65	\$519.03	36.9	35.7	37.1	\$14.55	\$14.78	\$13.99
Retail Trade	\$285.22	\$270.99	\$251.38	28.1	27.4	27.9	\$10.15	\$9.89	\$9.01

DATA PREPARED IN COOPERATION WITH THE BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS

* These average earnings are computed on a gross basis and reflect changes in premium pay for overtime and late shift work as well as changes in basic hourly and incentive wage.



PANHANDLE

BENEWAH, BONNER, BOUNDARY, KOOTENAI, & SHOSHONE COUNTIES

LABOR FORCE & EMPLOYMENT

The U.S. economic slowdown took a toll on the Panhandle economy this spring. The Panhandle's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate jumped from 8.4 percent in March to 9.1 percent in April. Several factors contributed to the unemployment jump. Manufacturers in the Idaho Panhandle and Washington's Spokane County continued to reduce jobs, putting many Panhandle residents out of work. In Shoshone County, economic repercussions from the February closure of the Sunshine Mine near Kellogg also boosted unemployment. Spring break-up persisted into April, so many loggers continued to draw unemployment insurance benefits. Construction activity in all the Panhandle counties, except Kootenai County, was running below its level in April 2000. Reduced consumer spending and concerns about how high forest fire danger and higher energy prices may affect the summer tourist season kept many stores, restaurants, and service businesses from hiring quite as many people this spring as they normally do. (See Panhandle Table 1 for details.)

Construction at the Avista-Cogentrix electricity-generating plant in Rathdrum and the Burlington Northern Santa Fe locomotive refueling depot near Rathdrum helped boost *Construction* employment. Lower interest rates also fueled residential construction in Kootenai County.

Rising lumber prices provide hope that this summer will allow the Panhandle's *Lumber & Wood Products* industry to expand employment slightly. From May through September 2000, falling lumber prices caused many mills to temporarily shut down or otherwise reduce their workforces. Some of those jobs may never return. *Lumber & Wood Products* in April 2001

Panhandle Table 1: Labor Force & Employment

	Apr 2001*	Mar 2001	Apr 2000	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
Seasonally Adjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	91,330	89,980	87,660	1.5	4.2
Unemployed	8,320	7,560	7,080	10.1	17.5
% of Labor Force Unemployed	9.1%	8.4%	8.1%		
Total Employment	83,010	82,420	80,580	0.7	3.0
Unadjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	90,810	89,380	87,280	1.6	4.0
Unemployed	9,560	10,310	8,440	-7.3	13.3
% of Labor Force Unemployed	10.5%	11.5%	9.7%		
Total Employment	81,250	79,070	78,840	2.8	3.1
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**	66,250	64,400	65,390	2.9	1.3
Goods-Producing Industries	13,370	13,240	13,870	1.0	-3.6
Mining	790	790	990	0.0	-20.2
Construction	4,600	4,100	4,460	12.2	3.1
Manufacturing	7,980	8,350	8,420	-4.4	-5.2
Lumber & Wood Products	3,440	3,760	3,980	-8.5	-13.6
All Other Manufacturing	4,540	4,590	4,440	-1.1	2.3
Service-Producing Industries	52,880	51,160	51,520	3.4	2.6
Transportation	1,460	1,430	1,290	2.1	13.2
Communication & Utilities	1,030	1,070	1,040	-3.7	-1.0
Wholesale Trade	2,100	2,200	2,300	-4.5	-8.7
Retail Trade	14,720	14,420	14,790	2.1	-0.5
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	2,560	2,520	2,470	1.6	3.6
Service & Miscellaneous	17,320	16,210	16,350	6.8	5.9
Government Administration	7,980	7,710	7,800	3.5	2.3
Government Education	5,710	5,600	5,480	2.0	4.2

* Preliminary estimate

**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

employed 540 fewer people than in April 2000. Approximately half of that difference resulted from this year's more severe spring break-up, and therefore should disappear between April and June. The other half of the difference is due to the lingering effect of falling lumber prices.

When the Plummer Forest Products mill opens at the Coeur d'Alene Tribe's Industrial Park in Plummer in July, *Lumber & Wood Products* will gain up to 60 jobs. Todd Brinkmeyer is the president of the new mill located at the old Rayonier mill that closed in November 1998. The Plummer mill will specialize in cutting small-dimension logs.

All Other Manufacturing jobs lost about 150 jobs between October 2000 and April 2001. The Panhandle's manufacturing job losses echo the depressed activity in the U.S. manufacturing sector. Job losses were highest in durable goods manufacturing companies, especially electronics and furniture. The 150 jobs do not reflect all the job losses in manufacturing. Typically, when manufacturers reduce staff, the first people to be laid off are workers supplied by temporary employment agencies. Temporary employment agencies are classified in *Business Services*, so their job losses show up

in *Services*. It is estimated that about 150 temporary manufacturing jobs were cut between October 2000 and April 2001.

Despite the reduction in temporary employment agency jobs, *Services* was the Panhandle economy's brightest spot in early 2001. About 300 of the *Services* jobs added between April 2000 and April 2001 resulted from the March opening of the Center Partners call center in Coeur d'Alene. Health care services, the Coeur d'Alene Tribe, CEDU Family of Services in Boundary and Bonner Counties, and tourist facilities created an additional 670 *Services* jobs over the year.

Government Administration's growth partially reflects increased employment in the U.S. Forest Service. Many experts believe this could be the worst fire season in decades.

AREA DEVELOPMENTS

Bonner County

- An \$8.5 million inn with a small conference center will open at Swan's Landing near Sandpoint in early July. The inn, owned by Alex and Mary Lee Verhoogen, will include a lodge with 23 guest rooms, two villas with a total of seven guest rooms, four meeting rooms, a gift shop, a floral shop, and a full-service spa. The inn will be immediately next to the 7-year-old Swan's Landing restaurant.
- Doug Dishong recently purchased the Parrott Mechanical business in Sandpoint from its parent company, Service Experts. The business, which offers heating, ventilation, and air-conditioning services, now is called Pend Oreille Mechanical. It employs about 20 people.
- A NAPA Auto Parts store opened in June on Highway 2 in Priest River. The NAPA store occupies the 8,000-square-foot Cash & Carry building. In addition to parts for autos and pickups, the Priest River NAPA also stocks parts for heavy trucks.
- Ralph, Mike, and Sherry Williams opened the Lube Center at 404 Larch in Sandpoint in May.
- Mountain West Bank, a state-chartered bank based in Coeur d'Alene, recently opened a residential loan production office at 111 N. First Avenue in Sandpoint.

Kootenai County

- Two national chain stores are moving into the former Ernst building between Target and Office Max, immediately north of the Silver Lake Mall in Coeur d'Alene. The 55,000-square-foot building has been vacant since Ernst closed four years ago. Ross Dress for Less, a chain selling name-brand apparel at dis-

count prices, will hire 35 people when it opens in October. Michael's, a craft store, will employ more than 20 people when it opens this fall.

- A new independent bank recently formed in Coeur d'Alene. Bankcda opened its first branch in a 3,400-square-foot space at 1620 Northwest Boulevard.
- Panhandle State Bank, an independent bank based in Sandpoint, plans to open a branch in Coeur d'Alene in late summer. The branch, located at 1000 Northwest Boulevard, will use the name Intermountain Community Bank.
- Prairie Falls Golf Course in Post Falls opened its back nine holes in May, making it Post Falls' third 18-hole golf course.
- The Japan House opened in June at 2113 Sherman Avenue in Coeur d'Alene. The 22-room motel sports a Japanese motif and offers a Japanese herbal bath for relaxation. Owners Kim Kuppen and Minnie Chou renovated the Sundowner Motel, which closed two years ago. They may eventually open a Japanese restaurant there, as well.
- A 7,500-square-foot antique store, simply called Antiques, recently opened at the prime Factory Outlets in Post Falls.
- Coeur d'Alene recently welcomed the following new businesses: Simple Pleasures, a gift and decorating store, at 221 Sherman Avenue; Resort Boat Shop & Sales at 105 Sherman Avenue; D's Hair Salon at 1613 North Fourth Street; Cuisine Cargo, a restaurant featuring food with an international flair, at 116 Lakeside Avenue; the Clearance Depot, a store selling new name-brand items closed out by original suppliers, at 1506 Northwest Boulevard; the Zoo, a store selling home accessories and gift items, at the Plaza Shops of The Coeur d'Alene Resort; and Era Exchange, trading and selling retro items primarily from the '60s and '70s, at 802 North Fourth Street.

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SEAPORT

NORTH CENTRAL IDAHO: CLEARWATER, IDAHO, LATAH, LEWIS, & NEZ PERCE COUNTIES

LABOR FORCE & EMPLOYMENT

As shown in Seaport Table 1, the Seaport's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased in April to 4.8 percent from the March rate of 4.1 percent. In April 2000, the rate was 3.8 percent. Total employment in April 2001 increased by 100 persons from the previous month but decreased by 800 persons from April 2000. So far, the year 2001 has not produced jobs at the same rate (percentage change) as the previous years of 2000, 1999 or 1998. Total employment in the area for 2001 has remained flat with little growth.

In April, the Seaport's *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* increased by 250 jobs from March 2001, but decreased 670 from April 2000. The increase from March 2001 was because of a small increase in *Retail Trade*. New jobs were created in *Trade* in both the wholesale and retail sectors. Two small specialty stores opened in Lewiston in May, but most of the new jobs came from existing businesses hiring a few here and there. As compared to last year, significant losses occurred in *Social Services*, *Business Services* and *Non Profit Organizations*.

SPECIAL TOPICS:

Salmon

Hundreds of anglers poured into North Central Idaho in May to experience the biggest salmon run in Idaho in more than 20 years. The anglers are pulling fish from the water and pumping millions of dollars into the economies of towns up and down the Clearwater and Salmon rivers. Business owners from Orofino to Riggins who operate tackle shops, guide and outfitter's services, gas stations, convenience stores, cafes, bars, and motels say fishing has buoyed business in the midst of a choppy economy. Usually there is a lull between the steelhead and rafting seasons. This year the salmon fishing has filled that lull nicely.

Seaport Table 1: Labor Force & Employment
Nez Perce County, Idaho, and Asotin County, Washington

	Apr 2001*	Mar 2001	Apr 2000	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
Seasonally Adjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	34,460	34,130	34,950	1.0	-1.4
Unemployment	1,640	1,410	1,330	16.3	23.3
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.8%	4.1%	3.8%		
Total Employment	32,820	32,720	33,620	0.3	-2.4
Unadjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	34,650	34,730	34,970	-0.2	-0.9
Unemployment	1,640	1,730	1,330	-5.2	23.3
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.7%	5.0%	3.8%		
Total Employment	33,010	33,000	33,640	0.0	-1.9
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**	25,740	25,490	26,410	1.0	-2.5
Goods-Producing Industries	5,110	5,120	5,430	-0.2	-5.9
Mining & Construction	1,320	1,320	1,370	0.0	-3.6
Manufacturing	3,790	3,800	4,060	-0.3	-6.7
Food Processing	70	70	110	0.0	-36.4
Lumber & Wood Products	710	710	730	0.0	-2.7
Paper Products	1,700	1,700	1,840	0.0	-7.6
All Other Manufacturing	1,310	1,320	1,380	-0.8	-5.1
Service-Producing Industries	20,630	20,370	20,980	1.3	-1.7
Transportation	1,350	1,350	1,340	0.0	0.7
Communications & Utilities	280	290	300	-3.4	-6.7
Wholesale Trade	940	930	970	1.1	-3.1
Retail Trade	5,370	5,140	5,230	4.5	2.7
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	1,380	1,410	1,440	-2.1	-4.2
Services	6,840	6,850	7,300	-0.1	-6.3
Government Administration	1,910	1,880	1,830	1.6	4.4
Government Education	2,560	2,520	2,570	1.6	-0.4
*Preliminary Estimate					
**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month					

Most anglers don't really want to add up how much it costs to land the big one, but a good sport from Idaho Falls agreed to estimate what he's spent on his fishing trip to Riggins. Hooking eight before reeling in his first below the Salmon Rapids Lodge:

"Well, the first thing we did was fill up the Suburban in Boise. That cost \$70." The brand new rod and reel put him back \$270. "My wife doesn't know what I spent on it," he chuckles. The fishing net was \$50, but turned out to be well worth it. A room at the lodge runs around \$80 a night, the cost of which he is splitting with a fishing buddy. Food for a day runs between \$30 and \$50. "We'll probably drop \$20 apiece tonight on dinner." The guide they hired for the next day cost \$300. But he didn't have to buy any tackle, and he didn't buy any fancy new fishing outfits for his vacation. "No new clothes," he says with a smile. "I'm already pushing my luck." Then there are the men and women who fish in the middle of the river. Boats in every price range are bobbing

on the water. Some guys are rowing \$500 dinghies. Others are sitting in \$40,000 jet boats fully loaded with all the latest gadgets.

(Editor's note: the fish weighed around 12 pounds, but created a ton of excitement on the shore.)

Agriculture

This year north central Idaho farmers intend to increase seeding of spring wheat by 8 percent, according to the Idaho Agricultural Statistics Service. However, winter wheat seeding decreased 3 percent from the 2000 crop. Barley seeding is expected to increase 2 percent. Oat seeding is expected to be unchanged. All hay intended for harvest is up one percent from last year. Nationally, spring wheat seeding is up 2 percent from last year. Winter Wheat is down 5 percent from 2000. This is the lowest acreage seeded to winter wheat since 1971. Barley seeding is 9 percent below last year.

AREA DEVELOPMENTS

Clearwater County

- When the lumber market started to decline 18 months ago, Konkolville Lumber Company in Orofino, after suffering heavy financial losses, had two choices: give in to depressed lumber prices and close down, or push forward and look for more ways to become competitive. The Konkol family that owns the mill ruled out closing the mill. Instead they decided to look at investing millions in updating equipment and diversifying. The company wants to start processing logs 4 inches or less in diameter and build a wood-fired boiler to generate electricity. To help finance the consulting and planning phase of the process, the family has turned to a federal grant program. The program allows companies that have been adversely affected by the North American Free Trade Agreement to apply for grants to help them become more competitive and efficient.

Idaho & Lewis Counties

- A new gift store in Kamiah is using huckleberries as their theme. The Huckleberry Basket near Kamiah is filled with an assortment of goodies for shoppers in search of gift items, local arts and crafts, and home-made deli food. A variety of huckleberry products, from jam to soap, can be found at the store bearing the popular berry's name.
- King's Discount Store has applied for a building permit in Grangeville. The permit specified a structure of approximately 22,000 square feet, with a plan to have 14,000 square feet of retail space and the remainder designated for storage. If everything goes as expected, construction could begin on the facility

in early June. The new store will employ between nine and 15 part- to full-time staff.

Nez Perce and Asotin Counties

- A recent United Airlines market analysis determined a need for an additional 35-passenger jet in Lewiston along with existing commuter service to connect with their regional hubs. But at this time the company doesn't have one in its fleet. According to company officials the good news is that they may begin ordering some by the end of the year. Currently only one commuter airline operates out of the Lewiston-Nez Perce County Regional Airport. The airline, Horizon, operates planes that can accommodate 37 passengers and connects with parent company Alaska Airlines, primarily in Seattle, Portland, or Spokane.
- Potlatch Corporation at Lewiston conducted its annual maintenance shutdown the second week of May. The shutdown, which allows preventive maintenance and preplanned maintenance work to be done, resulted in the closure for several days of the pulp and paperboard operation and parts of the sawmill. Consumer tissue operations remained open during the shutdown. Potlatch officials said several operations that normally continue through shutdowns operated on a limited basis this year, or shut down completely, because of the high cost of energy.

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TREASURE VALLEY

ADA, ADAMS, BOISE, CANYON, ELMORE, GEM, OWYHEE, PAYETTE, VALLEY, & WASHINGTON COUNTIES

LABOR FORCE & EMPLOYMENT

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for the Boise City Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) was 3.8 percent for April 2001, as shown in Treasure Valley Table 1. This rate was seven-tenths of a percentage point above the March 2001 rate of 3.1 percent, and it was three-tenths of a percentage point above the April 2000 rate of 3.5 percent. There was an increase in the number of employed individuals, from 237,400 to 238,800, and an increase in the number of unemployed individuals, from 7,500 to 9,300. The net increase in the *Civilian Labor Force* was 3,200 from March 2001 to April 2001. Treasure Valley Table 2 shows the April 2001 labor force figures for all counties in Southwest Idaho.

**Treasure Valley Table 2: April 2001
Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Figures for
Southwest Idaho Counties**

	Civilian Labor Force	Number Unem- ployed	Percent Unem- ployed	Number Employed
Ada	181,073	6,020	3.3	175,053
Adams	1,600	212	13.3	1,388
Boise	2,535	125	4.9	2,409
Canyon	69,506	3,640	5.2	65,866
Elmore	9,294	562	6.0	8,732
Gem	6,475	393	6.1	6,082
Owyhee	4,104	196	4.8	3,908
Payette	10,235	680	6.6	9,555
Valley	4,281	310	7.2	3,971
Washington	4,658	361	7.7	4,298
Statewide	679,998	32,831	4.8	647,167

The number of *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* grew by 1,900 between March and April 2001, and grew by 8,400 from April 2000. *Goods-Producing Industries* gained 100 jobs over the month. Job gains in *Construction & Mining* (500 jobs) outpaced job losses in *Manufacturing* (400 jobs), with job losses noted in *Industrial & Commercial Machinery & Computer Equipment* (600 jobs), *Electronic & Other Electrical Equipment & Components* (200 jobs), *Other Lumber & Wood Products* (100 jobs), and *Food &*

**Treasure Valley Table 1: Boise MSA Labor Force & Employment
(Ada and Canyon counties)**

	Apr 2001*	Mar 2001	Apr 2000	% Change Last Month	% Change Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
Seasonally Adjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	248,100	244,900	233,100	1.3	6.4
Unemployment	9,300	7,500	8,100	24.0	14.8
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.8%	3.1%	3.5%		
Total Employment	238,800	237,400	225,000	0.6	6.1
Unadjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	246,200	243,800	231,300	1.0	6.4
Unemployment	9,000	8,200	7,800	9.8	15.4
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.7%	3.4%	3.4%		
Total Employment	237,200	235,600	223,500	0.7	6.1
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**	229,900	228,000	221,500	0.8	3.8
GOODS-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	53,000	52,900	52,600	0.2	0.8
Mining & Construction	16,100	15,600	15,700	3.2	2.5
Manufacturing	36,900	37,300	36,900	-1.1	0.0
Durable Goods	28,600	28,900	28,500	-1.0	0.4
Lumber & Wood Products	3,200	3,200	3,500	0.0	-8.6
Wood Buildings & Mobile Homes	800	700	1,000	14.3	-20.0
Other Lumber & Wood Products	2,400	2,500	2,500	-4.0	-4.0
Fabricated Metal Products	1,200	1,200	1,200	0.0	0.0
Ind. & Comm. Mach. & Computer Equip.	7,500	8,100	8,000	-7.4	-6.3
Electronic & Other Elect. Equip. & Comp.	13,000	12,800	11,700	1.6	11.1
Transportation Equipment	1,700	1,700	2,100	0.0	-19.0
Other Durable Goods	2,000	1,900	2,000	5.3	0.0
Nondurable Goods	8,300	8,400	8,400	-1.2	-1.2
Food Products	5,400	5,500	5,600	-1.8	-3.6
Canned Cured & Frozen Foods	1,600	1,700	1,800	-5.9	-11.1
Printing, Pub & Allied Products	2,000	2,000	1,900	0.0	5.3
Other Nondurable Goods	900	900	900	0.0	0.0
SERVICE-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	176,900	175,100	168,900	1.0	4.7
Trans, Comm, & Public Util	12,000	12,000	11,700	0.0	2.6
Transportation	6,700	6,800	6,400	-1.5	4.7
Comm & Elec, Gas & Sanitary Services	5,300	5,200	5,300	1.9	0.0
Trade	57,700	57,000	54,300	1.2	6.3
Wholesale Trade	14,000	14,000	13,300	0.0	5.3
Durable Goods	8,500	8,600	8,000	-1.2	6.3
Nondurable Goods	5,500	5,400	5,300	1.9	3.8
Retail Trade	43,700	43,000	41,000	1.6	6.6
General Merchandise Stores	6,100	6,000	4,300	1.7	41.9
Foods Stores	7,800	7,700	7,600	1.3	2.6
Eating & Drinking Places	15,000	14,700	14,800	2.0	1.4
Other Retail Trade	14,800	14,600	14,300	1.4	3.5
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	11,100	11,000	11,200	0.9	-0.9
Services	60,800	60,000	57,800	1.3	5.2
Business Services	14,700	14,800	14,800	-0.7	-0.7
Health Services	17,600	17,100	16,300	2.9	8.0
Hospitals	8,200	7,900	7,300	3.8	12.3
Eng., Acct., Res., Mngmt., & Related	4,800	4,800	4,300	0.0	11.6
Other Services	23,700	23,300	22,400	1.7	5.8
Government	35,300	35,100	33,900	0.6	4.1
Federal Government	5,200	5,000	5,100	4.0	2.0
State Government	13,100	13,200	12,700	-0.8	3.1
Education	4,600	4,700	4,400	-2.1	4.5
Administration	8,500	8,500	8,300	0.0	2.4
Local Government	17,000	16,900	16,100	0.6	5.6
Education	11,300	11,300	10,700	0.0	5.6
Administration	5,700	5,600	5,400	1.8	5.6

**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

Kindred Products (100 jobs). Job gains in *Manufacturing* included *Wood Buildings & Mobile Homes* (100 jobs) and *Other Durable Goods* (100 jobs). Year-over-year, the only industries that did not experience an increase in the number of jobs were *Wood Buildings & Mobile Home Manufacturing*, *Other Lumber & Wood Products Manufacturing*, and *Food & Kindred Products Manufacturing*; all other *Goods-Producing Industries* experienced a year-over-year gain. The increase in *Goods-Producing Industries* accounted for 5.3 percent of *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* added over the month, and 4.8 percent of the jobs created year-over-year.

Service-Producing Industries added 1,800 jobs in the Boise City MSA from March 2001 to April 2001. The only industries that accrued a loss over the month were *Transportation* (100 jobs), *Durable Goods Wholesale Trade* (100 jobs), *Business Services* (100 jobs), and *State Government Education* (100 jobs); all other *Service-Producing Industries* gained jobs over the month. The industries that posted the most job gains over the month were *Eating & Drinking Places* (300 jobs), *Health Services* (500 jobs), and *Other Services* (400 jobs). Year-over-year, the only industries that did not experience a gain in *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* in April were *Business Services*, with a loss of 100 jobs, and *Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate*, with a loss of 100 jobs. The increase in *Service-Producing Industries* accounted for 94.4 percent of *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* added over the month, and 95.2 percent of jobs created year-over-year.

SPECIAL TOPICS:

High-Tech Industry Watch

Recent layoffs at Micronpc.com and MCMS are forcing people in the Treasure Valley to look at the high-tech industry and question its future throughout the valley. With the recent layoffs included, the number of jobs lost in high-tech companies since January has increased to 1,500, not including temporary workers. In related news, Gores Technology Group, which recently purchased Micronpc.com, also announced the purchase of VeriFone of Hewlett Packard; this acquisition will allow HP to focus on its core competencies.

Boise Cascade

Boise Cascade, which announced in February the permanent closure of its sawmill in Cascade and its plywood and lumber operations in Emmett, has laid off the majority of its workers at those facilities. May 31st was the last day of work at the Cascade sawmill and at the plywood plant in Emmett. Over 200 workers were affected by this layoff, and more employees will be laid off from the lumber facility in Emmett during June.

Unemployment Insurance

Because of the large number of layoffs that have occurred over the past few months, it is important to reestablish the importance of the Unemployment Insurance program, which is specifically designed to assist indi-

viduals in these types of situations. The Unemployment Insurance Program has two functions:

(1) *Stabilizing the Economy*: Besides helping unemployed individuals and families transition from one job to another, Unemployment Insurance (UI) acts as an automatic economic stabilizer. In a recession, UI benefits offset some of the effects of job losses on a community's spending power. Because UI benefits allow unemployed individuals and their families to continue to pay their bills, it helps maintain incomes and spending power of the stores, landlords, banks, and service providers in the community. UI softens the blow and reduces the snowball effect of job losses.

(2) *Retaining a Local Workforce*: Unemployment Insurance promotes stability by making it possible for employers to retain workers during the off-season or during a short downturn. Many seasonal industries would find it much more difficult to attract and retain employees if their workers could not rely on UI to support them through the off-season.

AREA DEVELOPMENTS

Boise City MSA

- For the second consecutive year, the Boise City MSA was ranked in Forbes Magazine's list of the 10 best places to do business and advance a career in America. The metropolitan area ranked number 7 this year, compared with number 5 last year. The magazine looked at eight different business categories including wage and salary growth, job growth, quality of life, high-tech clustering, access to capital, a pro-business government orientation, strong work ethic, and universities. Metropolitan areas that scored above Boise included San Jose, Austin, San Francisco, Boulder, Dallas, and Santa Rosa, with San Diego, Phoenix, and Oakland rounding out the top ten.
- Washington Group International, Inc. (WGI) filed for Chapter 11 protection in mid-May. This marks the second bankruptcy filing for the company in five years. Company officials stated that bankruptcy protection was the only way the company could stay afloat and eventually regain profitability. The recent financial problems for WGI started after a disputed acquisition deal with Raytheon Co., and by seeking Chapter 11 protection, company officials hope to make a debt-to-equity swap to stay in business. A federal bankruptcy judge in Reno, Nevada, will approve or deny the bankruptcy action for WGI. If the plan is approved, WGI plans to continue all projects and company officials do not plan to lay any employees off. WGI employs 600 people in Boise.
- The National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC) has already begun working with rural Idaho fire depart-

ments on fire suppression training and preparing equipment, in anticipation of a busy fire season. NIFC expected to have over 110 firefighters in Boise by mid-June—30 more than in previous years. In addition to the NIFC hiring, the U.S. Forest Service is also adding personnel and equipment to battle upcoming wildfires. A dry winter in Idaho usually indicates a long fire season, although officials say that it is too early to tell and there are too many unknown factors involved to predict the severity of the fire season.

- Palm, Inc. and Extended Systems issued a joint statement in mid-May that terminated the acquisition of Extended Systems by Palm. Spokespersons from Extended Systems and Palm, Inc. cited worsening economic conditions as one of the reasons for the failed acquisition. On a related note, Extended Systems has licensed its Bluetooth software technology (designed for use in embedded devices such as cellular phones, PDAs, digital cameras, portable office equipment, and industrial automation products) to NEC, for implementation in a Bluetooth printer adapter that has just been released in Japan. NEC selected Extended Systems' technology because of its portability and reliability. To date, Extended Systems has licensed its Bluetooth software to more than 85 leading companies.
- Several new restaurants opened in downtown Boise recently including Schott's Steaks and Chops, Bar-Time, and M's Wine/Martini Bar opened at 10th and Main streets, the Manhattan Grill opened at 622 Idaho Street, Banja Luka opened at 1517 W. Main Street (formerly Bacchus Café), Conundrum opened in March at 1002 W. Main Street (formerly Ten-O-Two), Zutto Sushi Bar moved to 615 W. Main Street in April, The Dublin Up Irish Pub opened at 800 W. Idaho Street on the second floor of the Mode building (formerly Noodle's), and Bittercreek Alehouse at 246 N. 8th Street received a facelift and a new full-bar menu in May. Coming this summer are Ha' Penny Bridge and Happy Fish Sushi and Martini Bar located next to The Big Easy, Addie's Place will replace Teriyaki Palace at 501 Main Street, and Goldy's Breakfast Bistro will open a second store this fall in Hyde Park in conjunction with Richard's Bakery at 1513 N. 13th Street.
- The Desert Sage Restaurant has announced plans to build a new facility near the intersection of Park-Center Boulevard and Beacon Street in Boise, which will be completed in two years.
- The Collister Center owners have announced a renovation of the northwest shopping center. The \$2.5 million facelift will include replacing the old shingling with a dark red-and-white trim metal facade. If approved, the remodeling will begin in June. The owners are still working towards attracting new tenants to the shopping center, and hope that the remodeling will attract new tenants and new customers.
- Over the past few months the following economic developments have been announced for the city of Boise: work on the long-anticipated Boise Tower will begin on June 18 and should be completed by early 2003; D.L. Evans will start construction on a second branch in Boise on the northwest corner of Emerald Street and Cole Road; RadioShack announced plans to move its store and district office from Orchard Street to Pioneer Square on Overland Road; Michael Fisher plans to close its jewelry store on the ground-floor of the Hoff building at Eighth and Bannock streets in July; and Jack-in-the-Box has filed plans with the City of Boise to build a restaurant on the northwest corner of Capitol Boulevard and Ann Morrison Park Drive.
- MacKenzie River Pizza's parent company, MacKenzie River International, Inc., has filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection. The company operates three pizza restaurants in the Boise area and 10 in Montana. The company plans to keep all stores open and still open a new store currently under construction in the Crossroads Shopping Center in Meridian.
- Over the past month in Meridian, the following businesses opened: Meridian Cycle & Accessories and Edward Jones at 3325 W. Cherry Lane; Starmedia Promotions announced the expansion of its business at 320 E. Corporate Drive, Suite 310 that will include an advertising department along with its design, apparel, signs, and promotional items businesses; and Fred Meyer received approval from the Meridian City Council to build a Fred Meyer gasoline facility on the northeast corner of Fairview Avenue and Locust Grove Road in Meridian, which will include a 3,612-square-foot canopy over five multi-product dispensers and a cashier's kiosk.
- The Firehouse Diner opened in Kuna in March in the old Kuna Rural Fire District building at 271 Avenue B.
- Environmental Oil of Nampa recently acquired Artesian Oil Recovery, Inc., a California oil recovery firm. The \$485,000 acquisition was finalized on May 14. Artesian oil is a used oil transfer facility that collects used oil, oily water, antifreeze, and other related materials for recycling. The acquisition fits with Environmental Oil's long-range plans.
- Recent business openings in Canyon County over the past month included: Zamzow's, which opened

a second location in Nampa at 1201 Franklin Boulevard; Sam Goody (formerly Musicland) opened its new location in Karcher Mall next to Bath & Body Works; Family Mortgage of Idaho opened at 714 Cleveland Boulevard in Caldwell; DJ Wholesale Framers Supply, Inc. leased 16,000 square feet of warehouse space at 2504 Sundance Road in Nampa; Idaho Camera leased 1,500 square feet of retail space in the Greenhurst Retail Center at 2312 12th Avenue Road in Nampa; construction began on the new Canyon County Animal Shelter in Caldwell behind the Larry Miller AutoMall and is expected to open in October; and Golden Corral announced a new restaurant on Karcher Road near Red Robin in Nampa.

- In late April, construction began on the first phase of West Valley Centre, a 40,000-square-foot shopping center located west of Middleton Road on the Nampa-Caldwell Boulevard. The first phase (20,000 square feet) will be completed by April 2002, and Sears will occupy 10,000 square feet of that space. The new shopping center will be the first major retail location to serve the Nampa and Caldwell communities.
- Hertz Car Sales opened a new location in early May at 4320 E. Cleveland Boulevard in Caldwell. This is the second location for Hertz Car Sales in the Treasure Valley, and it will employ about 30 individuals. The grand opening will be held in June.
- Construction of a new \$4.7 million elementary school in the Vallivue School District will begin in early August and will be completed next year. Birch Elementary School will be located at the intersection of Birch Lane and 11th Avenue Extension.
- The Armadillo Bar-B-Q and Steakhouse opened a new branch in Middleton in mid-April. The newly remodeled restaurant is located at 307 E. First Street North.

Adams County

- The New Meadows United Methodist Church is host to a food bank that will open late this summer. Seven local businesses helped collect anonymous cash donations to pay for the food, which was collected during March and April. Many other contributions were made. The food bank will open in August or September and will be affiliated with the Idaho Foodbank Warehouse, Inc.

Elmore County

- The \$35 million expansion of the Saylor Creek training range at Mountain Home Air Force Base should be completed by the end of 2001. The project started in the early 1980s but final agreement was not reached until two years ago. The first phase, which

included setting up some of the 30 emitter sites (pads for parking trucks equipped to emit signals that simulate enemy radar), was completed earlier this year. The second phase of the project, which involves the construction of a dummy factory, is expected to be completed before July.

Gem County

- This year's community auction raised nearly \$11,000 for local youth groups in early May. Recipients of the auction funds included Gem Youth Service, Emmett Community Playhouse, Gem/Boise 4-H Leaders Association, Gem County Girl Scouts, Friends of the Library, Optimist Baseball, Emmett High School Dance Team, Boy Scouts, Emmett Soccer, and the Rotary Club.

Payette County

- Recent developments in Payette County include the continuing construction of the Farmers and Merchants State Bank in Fruitland, the opening of The Hot Spot restaurant at 318 S. Main Street in Payette, and the Barber and Style shop opened at 21 S. Main Street in Payette.

Valley County

- The McCall Ice Rink and Event Center received a \$400,000 grant from the State of Idaho to build a 50-space parking garage. The grant was awarded by Governor Dirk Kempthorne as part of the latest round of public facility grants federally funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.
- The Valley County Planning and Zoning Commission unanimously approved a scaled-back development application for the proposed WestRock Lake Cascade four-season resort near Donnelley. The State Land Board and Valley County Commissioners still need to approve the proposal before any development can occur.

Washington County

- Dr. Paul Smith and his wife Mary Ann, a registered nurse, opened a surgical practice in Weiser, located at Memorial Hospital's Medical Specialty Clinic, in early May.

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MAGIC VALLEY

BLAINE, CAMAS, CASSIA, GOODING, JEROME, LINCOLN, MINIDOKA, & TWIN FALLS COUNTIES

LABOR FORCE & EMPLOYMENT

As shown in Magic Valley Table 1, the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for April 2001 was 4.1 percent, which was four-tenths of a percentage point higher than March 2001, but was four-tenths of a percentage point lower than April 2000. April 2001 was higher than March 2001 because there was a lot of caution in retail spring hiring due to perceived slipping in consumer spending. Overall, however, unemployment is better than a year previously with some new job creation in the fast food and restaurant sectors.

Specifically, sectors that have shown growth over the last year were *Manufacturing-Food Processing* with a 3.0 percent increase from April 2000 to April 2001. *Transportation, Communications, & Utilities, Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate, and Services* rose 3.5 percent, 2.8 percent, and 1.4 percent respectively. The sectors that have shown the most notable decreases over the past year were *Retail Trade, Wholesale Trade, and Manufacturing-Durable Goods*, with drops of 6.8 percent, 2.2 percent, and 6.9 percent respectively.

Overall, *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* were down five-tenths of a percentage point from April 2000 to April 2001. The South Central Idaho area has avoided the large layoffs and shutdowns announced in other parts of the state, but there are signs of economic cooling and increased caution in hiring. While the business climate remains optimistic for job seekers, the largest increases in job creation have been in sectors that typically have lower wages. The weakened state of the agricultural economy continues to exert a great deal of influence over the general economic well-being of the area, and with the present national economic downturn also affecting South Central Idaho, especially in consumer confidence, it is safe to assume that some small increases in unemployment may be possible throughout 2001.

Magic Valley Table 1: Labor Force & Employment
Twin Falls, Jerome, and Gooding counties

	Apr 2001*	Mar 2001	Apr 2000	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
Seasonally Adjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	48,320	48,580	47,380	-0.5	2.0
Unemployment	1,960	1,810	2,130	8.3	-8.0
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.1%	3.7%	4.5%		
Total Employment	46,360	46,770	45,250	-0.9	2.5
Unadjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	47,320	46,930	46,390	0.8	2.0
Unemployment	1,830	2,070	1,990	-11.6	-8.0
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.9%	4.4%	4.3%		
Total Employment	45,490	44,860	44,400	1.4	2.5
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**	37,070	36,840	37,270	0.6	-0.5
Goods-Producing Industries	6,950	6,800	6,940	2.2	0.1
Mining & Construction	1,970	1,860	1,990	5.9	-1.0
Manufacturing	4,980	4,940	4,950	0.8	0.6
Durable Goods	810	810	870	0.0	-6.9
Nondurable Goods	4,170	4,130	4,080	1.0	2.2
Food Processing	3,130	3,120	3,040	0.3	3.0
All Other Nondurable Goods	1,040	1,010	1,040	3.0	0.0
Service-Producing Industries	30,120	30,040	30,330	0.3	-0.7
Transportation, Comm., & Utilities	2,920	2,950	2,820	-1.0	3.5
Wholesale Trade	2,260	2,280	2,310	-0.9	-2.2
Retail Trade	7,480	7,340	8,030	1.9	-6.8
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	1,460	1,450	1,420	0.7	2.8
Services	8,480	8,510	8,360	-0.4	1.4
Government Administration	3,680	3,650	3,580	0.8	2.8
Government Education	3,840	3,860	3,810	-0.5	0.8

*Preliminary Estimate

**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

AREA DEVELOPMENTS

Twin Falls County

- The College of Southern Idaho announced the hiring of Jan W. Rogers as the first executive director of the newly formed Southern Idaho Economic Development Organization (SIEDO), effective June 1, 2001. Rogers was previously the marketing director for the *Times-News* of Twin Falls and was selected from a pool of more than 30 applicants from across the nation. She has more than 25 years' experience in marketing and management in the Magic Valley and Texas. The Southern Idaho Economic Development Organization was formed in December 2000 upon the recommendation of the Lockwood-Greene Study, a comprehensive marketing analysis that was completed in mid-2000. SIEDO was formed when a regional coalition of public- and private-

sector leaders from Twin Falls and Jerome met to formalize efforts to attract new employers and to help existing businesses expand. Jan Rogers will officially be an employee of CSI, and the college will pay most of her \$60,000 per-year salary. All other costs associated with her position will be paid by SIEDO. She will work from CSI's Work Keys Development Center on South Lincoln Street in Jerome.

- Joslin Field, Magic Valley Regional Airport has hired a new manager. Bill Carberry, previously an operations specialist for Centennial Airport of Englewood, Colorado, began work as the new manager of Joslin Field, Magic Valley Regional Airport on May 7, 2001.
- The City of Buhl has been awarded a \$400,000 Community Development Block Grant from the Idaho Department of Commerce to be used to fund downtown revitalization in the city. The downtown enhancement project is scheduled for construction in 2002 and involves the heart of downtown Buhl, running for two blocks in all four directions of the Main Street and Broadway intersections. It will include street resurfacing and repairs on Main and Broadway, a new left turn lane on Main, new sidewalk and curb extenders, new curbs and gutters, intersection safety lighting, benches, trash receptacles, decorative street lighting, trees, a new traffic signal, and a storm drainage system. The total cost of the project is estimated at \$2 million and will be shared by the City of Buhl, an Idaho Transportation Department Local Improvement District, and the Idaho Department of Commerce.
- The Advanced Regional Technical Education Coalition (ARTEC) received a \$40,000 contribution from the Twin Falls Chamber of Commerce's Business Plus II for 2001-2002 operating expenses. ARTEC administers a system of eighteen training academies throughout South Central Idaho school districts to help train students in many different vocational occupations. Now in its third year, Business Plus II is a campaign sponsored by the Twin Falls Chamber of Commerce to raise \$1.6 million from local businesses for economic development purposes.
- The Kimberly School District is preparing for its move into the new \$5.5 million high school and gymnasium. Completion of the facility is expected by July 16, 2001. Maintenance crews and teachers will soon begin moving into the new classrooms, leaving the old high school round building to be converted into space for the fourth and fifth grades. All offices will be moved, except the elementary school office. The present high school annex will be

dismantled at a later date.

Jerome, Gooding, Blaine, Lincoln, and Camas Counties

- Wendell School District voters approved a 20-year \$4.6 million plant levy that will finance construction of a new 56,000-square-foot middle school and separate 3,000-square-foot vocational-technical building. Approval of the levy also secured a \$1.5 million state Safe School plant facilities grant that will be used to pay interest on the levy amount. The levy was approved by 72 percent of the vote.
- Lincoln County is exploring the possibility of applying to the Idaho Department of Commerce for a grant to fund an economic development specialist to help promote the county and secure new employers and expand existing business in the area.

Cassia and Minidoka Counties

- Minidoka County School District voters approved a \$10.3 million plant facilities levy. The levy will finance extensive remodeling and equipment upgrades for several district schools, although the majority of the money will finance improvements at Minico High School. Residents won't see a tax increase because the district retired a 20-year bond issue in February. A 33-member advisory council that included citizens, business owners, and farmers proposed the levy amount.
- The Heyburn City Council voted unanimously to annex 32 acres that include the J.R. Simplot Heyburn Plant. The council had been considering this action for several months, but had held off action while the city and Simplot officials negotiated electrical service. The Simplot Co. has filed litigation against the city and negotiations have broken off. Simplot alleges that the city's electrical rates are unreasonable, while the city says that Simplot is only paying residential rates and that rates are fair. The litigation was to be considered by the 5th District Court on June 11, 2001.

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SOUTHEAST IDAHO

BANNOCK, BEAR LAKE, BINGHAM, CARIBOU, FRANKLIN, ONEIDA, & POWER COUNTIES

LABOR FORCE

Southeast Idaho Table 1 shows the Pocatello Metropolitan Statistical Area's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased slightly in April 2001 to 4.2 percent from the March 2001 revised unemployment rate of 4.1 percent. The number of individuals unemployed in April (1,720) increased 3 percent from March, creating the slight increase in the unemployment rate over the month. April falls between the busy winter season, when the holidays and winter recreation activities add jobs in the area's economy, and the busy spring season, when farming, construction, and tourism add jobs in the area's economy. Therefore, a slight decrease in employment and an increase in the unemployment rate are normal this time of year.

More substantially different is the change from one year ago, when the unemployment rate was 5.4 percent. A fairly mild winter, the opening of two major retail outlets, and April's mild weather conditions contributed to an improved employment pattern over last year. From April 2000, the number of individuals in the labor force increased 4.8 percent (1,840) while the number of individuals employed increased 6 percent (2,190), driving the unemployment rate down from 5.4 percent to 4.2 percent.

EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs fell by 30 from March 2001 to April 2001. Jobs in the *Goods-Producing Industries* (Construction and Manufacturing) increased by 180 in April, while jobs in the *Service-Producing Industries* (Transportation, Communications & Utilities; Trade; Finance, Insurance & Real Estate; Services; and Government) fell by 210.

Goods-Producing Industries

The 180-job increase in *Construction* and *Manufacturing* occurred because mild weather allowed construction activity to resume after slowing down for the winter months. *Construction* jobs increased by 100 over the month, and increases occurred in all three categories—*General Building Contractors*, *Heavy Construction*, and *Special Trade Contractors*. Increased

Southeast Idaho Table 1: Labor Force & Employment
Pocatello City MSA (Bannock County)

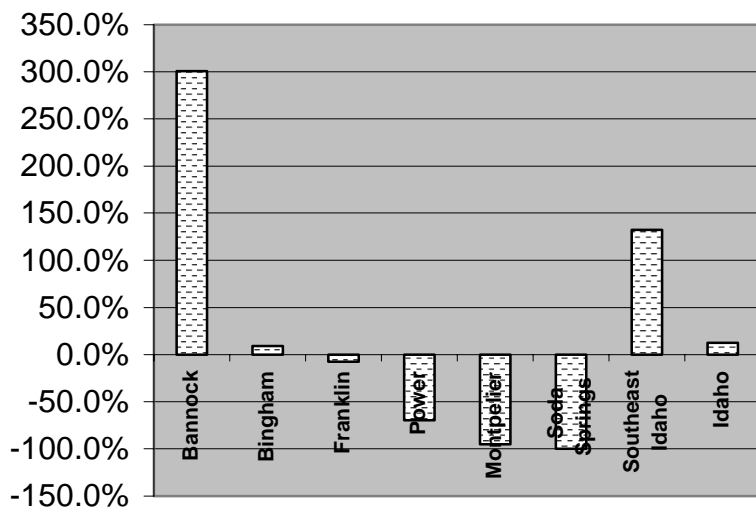
	Apr 2001*	Mar 2001	Apr 2000	% Change From Last Month	% Change From Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
Seasonally Adjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	40,510	40,460	38,670	0.1	4.8
Unemployment	1,720	1,670	2,070	3.0	-16.9
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.2%	4.1%	5.4%		
Total Employment	38,790	38,790	36,600	0.0	6.0
Unadjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	40,700	41,020	38,830	-0.8	4.8
Unemployment	1,680	1,870	2,030	-10.2	-17.2
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.1%	4.6%	5.2%		
Total Employment	39,020	39,150	36,800	-0.3	6.0
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**	33,480	33,510	33,020	-0.1	1.4
Goods-Producing Industries	4,660	4,480	4,500	4.0	3.6
Mining & Construction	1,590	1,490	1,650	6.7	-3.6
Manufacturing	3,070	2,990	2,850	2.7	7.7
Service-Producing Industries	28,820	29,030	28,520	-0.7	1.1
Transportation, Comm., & Utilities	1,770	1,760	1,830	0.6	-3.3
Wholesale Trade	1,380	1,390	1,450	-0.7	-4.8
Retail Trade	7,060	7,060	6,900	0.0	2.3
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	1,450	1,440	1,460	0.7	-0.7
Services	8,000	8,130	7,860	-1.6	1.8
Government Administration	3,460	3,410	3,440	1.5	0.6
Government Education	5,700	5,840	5,580	-2.4	2.2

*Preliminary Estimate

**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

Southeast Idaho Construction Graph 1

Change in Construction permit value Jan & Feb 2000 - 2001



construction activity also affected jobs in *Manufacturing*, which increased by 80 over the month. Most *Manufacturing* increases occurred in *Stone, Clay, Glass, and Concrete Products* and *Fabricated Metal Products*.

From April 2000, the *Goods-Producing Industries* gained 160 jobs. That job growth occurred in *Manufacturing*, but may fall behind later in the year as American Microsystems, Inc. and Astaris reduce their workforces. *Construction* lost 60 jobs from last April. Since construction permits for the first two months of 2001 were significantly higher than in the first two months of 2000 (see Construction Graph 1 on page 17), those losses may actually be the result of where the jobs are reported rather than fewer jobs.

Service-Producing Industries

The *Service-Producing Industries* had a net job loss of 210 between March and April 2001, primarily in *Government Education* (140) and *Services* (130). Most of the declines in *Government Education* occurred in student employment at Idaho State University. The decline in *Services* was mainly in *Amusement and Recreation*, and *Business Services*. Since most winter recreation jobs ceased in April and summer recreation jobs had not started, *Amusement and Recreation* lost more than 40 jobs. The *Business Services* sector, particularly staffing and telemarketing services, lost another 40 plus jobs.

From April 2000, the *Service-Producing Industries* gained 300 jobs. Most of the job growth occurred in *Retail Trade* (160), *Services* (140), and *Government Education* (120). Over the year, *Retail Trade* jobs grew because of the opening of two new super stores in the area. Despite increased jobs in retail, a trend among some retailers toward working staff more hours, thereby employing fewer workers, may be holding retail job numbers down slightly. Job growth in *Services* has been primarily in *Hotels, Business Services, Engineering, Research, & Management Services*, and *Other Services*. Because of increased utilization of temporary workers through private staffing agencies, some jobs that would be counted in other industries have been counted in *Business Services*.

AREA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS

Please note: Information contained in Economic Developments is obtained from area newspapers, local Job Service offices, trade publications, local area Chambers of Commerce publications, and other sources.

Bannock County

- The Pocatello Women's Correctional Center is expanding and will add approximately 60 positions. By mid-summer, the facility will increase its substance abuse treatment center from 11 to 62 beds. Jobs created by the expansion will pay between \$7.00 and \$24.00 per hour.
- American Microsystems, Inc. (AMI) reduced its Pocatello workforce by around 220 jobs in May. The reductions occurred because the economy in general, and the semiconductor industry in particular, has slowed. Reductions occurred in all divisions and occupations. The jobs that were cut pay between \$8.00

and \$35.00 per hour. AMI continues to be one of Pocatello's largest employers and still plans to build a new facility in Pocatello to house the engineering and business departments.

- Enhancements have been made to the Lava Hot Springs pool at a cost of \$460,000. The enhancements include two new slides, a plunge pool for the slides, and a new stairway to the existing Olympic-size pool's diving platforms. The Lava Hot Springs Foundation, a state-funded organization, operates the swimming facility and hot pools in Lava.
- Harrison Jewelers, one of Old Town Pocatello's oldest businesses, closed in May. The store was closed because its owner/operator will pursue a new business opportunity.

Caribou County

- Astaris announced plans to reduce its Dry Valley Mine workforce in Soda Springs by nine people. The reduction, from 58 to 49 employees, is the result of reducing the number of furnaces in operation at the Pocatello Astaris facility.

Franklin County

- Naylor Insurance moved into its new facility at 98 E 800 N, Suite 4. The new location provides more space for conducting business and increased customer parking.
- A groundbreaking ceremony for the new Larsen-Sant Public Library in Preston was held in May. The facility will be approximately 8,700 square feet and will cost \$900,000.

Oneida County

- Nana's Attic opened in April in Malad's Uptown Mall. The business specializes in ceramic, porcelain, and bisque green ware, and finished items. They also carry a line of special occasion gift items.

Power County

- Because of mild weather conditions last winter, construction on the new American Falls High School is ahead of schedule. Masonry crews are currently working on the auditorium, and framing, electrical systems, and fire systems are being completed inside the building. The school is scheduled to open in 2002.
- A Minnesota company, Handi-Plus Inc., has shown an interest in building a natural gas power generating plant on Highway 37 between American Falls and Rockland. A public hearing is scheduled in June.

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NORTHEAST IDAHO

BONNEVILLE, BUTTE, CLARK, CUSTER, FREMONT, JEFFERSON, LEMHI, MADISON, & TETON COUNTIES

LABOR FORCE

The Bonneville Labor Market Area (LMA), consisting of Bingham, Bonneville, Butte, and Jefferson counties, had a seasonally adjusted unemployment rate of 3.6 percent for April 2001, down one-tenth of a percentage point from the previous month and five-tenths of a percentage point from April 2000. The LMA's unemployment rate was 1.3 percentage points lower than the state's rate of 4.9 percent and nine-tenths of a percentage point lower than the national rate of 4.5 percent.

An increase in farming and construction activities helped April reach a monthly increase of 560 in the *Civilian Labor Force*—more than 350 individuals from Bonneville County and most of the remaining from Bingham County. Unemployment decreased by 100 people and total employment increased by 660 in April. The year-over-year comparison shows the *Civilian Labor Force* increased by 3,300 people, unemployment decreased by 270 and total employment increased by 3,570.

Butte County held the lowest unemployment rate in the Bonneville LMA at 3.0 percent in April, followed by Bonneville, Jefferson, and Bingham counties at 3.3, 3.4, and 4.4 percent, respectively. The unemployment rate for Idaho Falls, the largest city in the LMA, decreased one-tenth of a percentage point over the month to 3.4 percent, and decreased four-tenths of a percentage point from April 2000.

EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs (jobs by place of work) increased by 1,140 over the month, for a total of 62,990 jobs in the LMA. Both *Goods-Producing Industries* and *Service-Producing Industries* increased over the month, adding roughly 500 to 600 jobs each. The largest percentage increase by industry was seen in

Northeast Idaho Table 1: Labor Force & Employment
Bonneville, Bingham, Butte, & Jefferson counties

	Apr 2001*	Mar 2001	Apr 2000	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
Seasonally Adjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	82,500	81,940	79,200	0.7	4.2
Unemployment	2,940	3,040	3,210	-3.3	-8.4
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.6%	3.7%	4.1%		
Total Employment	79,560	78,900	75,990	0.8	4.7
Unadjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	81,730	80,880	78,430	1.1	4.2
Unemployment	2,590	3,340	2,880	-22.5	-10.1
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.2%	4.1%	3.7%		
Total Employment	79,130	77,540	75,550	2.1	4.7
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**	62,990	61,850	61,510	1.8	2.4
Goods-Producing Industries	9,160	8,630	9,030	6.1	1.4
Mining & Construction	4,060	3,470	3,810	17.0	6.6
Manufacturing	5,100	5,160	5,220	-1.2	-2.3
Food Processing	2,630	2,710	2,820	-3.0	-6.7
Ind. & Com. Mach. & Computer Equip.	440	450	520	-2.2	-15.4
All Other Manufacturing	2,030	2,000	1,880	1.5	8.0
Service-Producing Industries	53,830	53,220	52,480	1.1	2.6
Transportation, Comm., & Utilities	2,210	2,170	2,310	1.8	-4.3
Wholesale Trade	6,070	6,070	6,150	0.0	-1.3
Retail Trade	11,430	11,270	11,330	1.4	0.9
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	1,900	1,890	1,850	0.5	2.7
Services	21,420	21,350	20,480	0.3	4.6
Government Administration	5,350	5,120	4,910	4.5	9.0
Government Education	5,450	5,350	5,450	1.9	0.0
*Preliminary Estimate					
**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month					

Construction, as an additional 590 jobs were noted over the month. A dry, workable spring helped to enhance early construction activities as the year-over-year comparison showed an increase of 130 jobs. *Manufacturing* was the only industry to experience a decrease for the month, losing 60 jobs or 1.2 percent. The commodities market is still playing a role in the economy as *Food Processing* showed a loss of 80 jobs during the same time period. From a year ago, the losses were double that in both *Manufacturing* and *Food Processing*. *Industrial & Commercial Machinery & Computer Equipment* also experienced a loss both over the month (10 jobs) and the year (80 jobs). Although *Wholesale Trade* stayed the same over the month, it saw a loss from a year ago of 80 jobs including both *Durable* and *Nondurable* products. *Transportation, Communication, & Utilities* increased by 40 jobs for the month, but lost 100 jobs from April 2000 in *Communications*.

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs saw relatively the same increase in a year-over-year comparison. Jobs increased by 1,480, with the larger increase coming from the *Service-Producing Industries*. *Services* added 940 jobs, with *Business Services* and *Engineering & Management* adding over 200 jobs each. *Government Administration* and *Construction* both added over 200 jobs from April 2000.

AREA DEVELOPMENTS

Bonneville County

- Downtown Idaho Falls has a new look – in fact it requires a closer look from all drivers and pedestrians. No longer are traffic lights controlling every corner, but rather stop signs (with the exception of E Street, which experiences enough traffic to warrant traffic lights). The city's Public Works Division and Idaho Falls Power made the change and removed the lights in mid-May, but the plan is to keep the poles in place as they monitor safety following the changes. The Downtown Development Corporation recommended the removal of the lights over a year ago and now plans to add decorative lighting, bicycle racks, benches, and trash receptacles to make downtown more pedestrian-friendly.
- A batting cage complex called the Field of Greens recently opened in Idaho Falls on Broadway just west of Rocknack's Hardware Store. The complex has five batting stations, and seven pitching machines that will pitch at different speeds as well as slow- and fast-pitch softballs. A batter gets 15 balls per token and a \$10 hitter's special will buy 12 tokens. Joel Motes, the owner, is working with the Idaho Falls Padres to have hitting clinics during the summer at beginner, intermediate, and advanced levels.
- Timberline Outfitters moved from its River Parkway location to A Street. The store sells outdoor clothing and equipment. Part-owner Wade Seeley said better foot traffic and the renovations of the downtown area prompted the move.
- Environmental Management Inc., an Idaho Falls-based company responsible for grounds maintenance, facility maintenance, custodial services, refuse and recycling, and minor construction, was awarded a contract with the U.S. Air Force Space Command. Although the company will manage the contract from the Idaho Falls location, it will provide services at Malmstrom Air Force Base, the Minuteman ICBM silos the base overseas, and the Montana Air National Guard complex in Great Falls.
- Ucon hired its own police officer and will now have its local patrol, with Bonneville County patrolling as necessary on the off hours. Paul Jagosh, former Idaho Falls police officer, took the job.

Butte County

- General Manager Bernie Meyers of Bechtel BWXT Idaho, LLC announced his retirement would officially begin August 1, 2001. Meyers has been general

manager of the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory's (INEEL) main contracting company since the switch to Bechtel two years ago. Meyers knew at the start of the contract that retirement would be a viable alternative within a few years, and he made it official in May. Deputy General Manager Bill Shipp will follow Meyers as general manager.

Fremont County

- St. Anthony hosted its annual Free Fishermen Breakfast. St. Anthony has supplied the traditional breakfast just before the opening of fishing season for the past 47 years. The breakfast started at 6:00am and finished around 2:00pm. Display tables were set up for merchants to display their wares and give out information, but no selling took place. Extemporaneous entertainment went on during the morning around an 11:00am posting of the flag. Normally, around 5,000 people are served at this annual breakfast, although it has served up to 10,000.
- Ashton will replace North Fremont High School as a \$9.5 million levy just passed, allowing the district to make some changes. It was the third attempt for the levy, as previous attempts in 1998 and 1999 fell short of the required percent of voter approval. The proposed plan is to construct a 90,000-square-foot 300-student high school on district-owned land. The district will also use the levy to complete safety-related renovations on several other area schools.

Madison County

- Erickson Pontiac-GMC, Inc. will be moving to a 30,000-square-foot building on five acres at West Main Street near the U.S. Highway 20 entrance. A groundbreaking ceremony was held mid-May and construction has already commenced. The building has an expected completion date of October. The new facility will include new and used car and truck sales, a service department, an auto body repair and paint division, and a quick lube/auto detailing service.

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SUMMARY:

Idaho Water Supply Outlook Report as of May 1, 2001

April brought cool and wet weather, which delayed snowmelt but did little to overcome the moisture deficit for this water year. The lack of mountain snow packs and resulting stream flow runoff will affect everyone in the state and the Pacific Northwest in one way or another—from lack of water for irrigation to higher electricity bills. In certain basins many farmers are preparing for water shortages this year by planting fewer crops or those that use less water or need less water late in the summer. Snow water content levels range from 30-55% of average. April melted about 1/3 of the snow in basins south of the Snake River and resulted in minimal stream increases. The lowest stream flow forecasts are 20-40% of average across southern and central Idaho; some are near their record low volumes (see table below). The highest forecasts are only 60-70% of average in the Henrys Fork basin. Snowmelt stream flow peaks could occur in early to mid-May when warm weather returns. The impacts of lack of snow will soon be felt as snowmelt stream flow peaks are low and streams recede to minimum flow levels by mid-summer. By summer's end, many reservoirs will be at their minimum levels. Conservation and a cool wet summer will help stretch this year's water supplies.

Kootenai at Leonia	52%
Coeur d'Alene at Enaville	53%
St. Joe at Calder	53%
Dworshak Reservoir Inflow	52%
Clearwater at Spalding	51%
Salmon at White Bird	52%
Weiser near Weiser	25%
Payette near Horseshoe Bend	31%
Boise near Boise	38%
Big Wood below Magic Dam	18%
Big Lost below Mackay Reservoir	47%
Little Lost below Wet Creek	65%
Henry's Fork near Ashton	67%
S Snake River near Heise	60%
Oakley Reservoir	40%
Salmon Falls Creek	46%
Hells Canyon Dam	33%
Bear River below Stewart Dam	20%

Most of this stream flow goes into reservoirs for storage and later use. This is the assessment of the state's water storage situation for the year.

Typically, storage starts increasing in March and April behind water storage facilities, but not this year. Coeur d'Alene Lake and Little Wood Reservoir increased 38 and 22 percentage points last month to 88% and 97% full, respectively. All other water storage facilities in the state increased less than 10 percentage points in April. This is not a good sign, especially in southern Idaho where 30 to 40 percent of the snow pack melted in April. The dry soil conditions appear to be absorbing a large quantity of the snowmelt water.

Here is a reservoir summary from north to south Idaho:

- Coeur d'Alene, Priest and Pend Oreille lakes are expected to refill to summer levels. Pend Oreille Lake may be one of the few water-storage facilities in the northwest that has available water to release by late summer.
- Dworshak Reservoir will not refill and plans call for using this water in July.
- The Payette Reservoir System will be short of filling and will be at minimum pool levels by summer's end.
- The Boise Reservoir System will not refill and will be at minimum levels by late August except for Anderson Ranch Reservoir, which will have about 70,000 acre-feet to maintain winter stream levels.
- Magic Reservoir is 41% full and will have a 40- to 45-day irrigation season.
- Little Wood Reservoir is nearly full and should be able to provide an adequate water supply for its users.
- Mackay Reservoir is 69% full; shortages are expected.
- The 8 major reservoirs in the upper Snake system are 80% full.
- Palisades Reservoir is only 61%. The system will not fill and will be depleted to minimum levels by summer's end, with the possible exception of Jackson Lake.
- Oakley Reservoir is 42% full; shortages are expected as irrigation demand is already exceeding inflows as of early May.

- Salmon Falls Reservoir is 19% full and will be out of water by the end of July.
- Wildhorse and Owyhee reservoirs are about 63% full.
- Brownlee Reservoir is full; however, the inflow forecast is for only 31% of average.
- Reservoirs will be drafted early as demands start exceeding inflows. Many reservoirs will be at their minimum storage levels by summer's end and will have very little, if any, carryover for next year.

Source: **Natural Resources Conservation Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture**

Other Consequences of the Water Shortage

Editor's Note: The following comments are based upon what we foresee for the next six months in Idaho. There is no employment data available to support these predictions, but over the course of the next six months we will be reporting on them.

The forecasted water shortage will have many non-agricultural effects. Most of Idaho's locally generated electrical supply comes from hydroelectric systems, principally dams with generating turbines. Because these dams also store water for uses claimed by water right holders or the stream flow is diverted into irrigation canals before it reaches the dams, the electrical generating capability of these systems is likely to be significantly diminished. This, in turn, could force the electrical utilities to go to the spot market to purchase very expensive electricity.

These circumstances already have caused Idaho Power, the major utility in Southern Idaho, to petition the Idaho Public Utilities Commission for a sizeable rate increase. A portion of the utility's request was granted. The major wholesaler of electric power in the Northwestern states, the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), is raising its prices to delivery utilities by 100 to 250 percent as well as asking that local utilities drop their electrical demands by 10 percent. Not all of the rate increase is due to hydroelectric stream flow; natural gas prices have increased which is increasing the cost of electricity generated via that energy source, electrical demand on the BPA system is exceeding its generated supply so BPA has been forced to go to the spot market for very expensive electricity, and BPA has been asked by Congress to increase its distribution grid to new areas in the West.

Since electricity is such a fundamental component of any enterprise's cost of doing business and our own personal lifestyles, everyone is likely to experience the effects of increased electrical costs. Everything from manufacturing to fast food to hotels to government will have to cover the increased costs. Personally, we will have increased utility costs, which might translate into

canceling some purchases of electric-driven appliances and services. Another major concern of employers and households alike is the possibility of "rolling blackouts" if the electricity supply cannot meet demand. These blackouts could have a negative effect on employee productivity and the bottom line for businesses. If they occur without notice, the negative impacts will be increased.

Manufacturing industries are a major user of electricity. Manufacturing employs about 13 percent of persons working in *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* in Idaho. Idaho's manufactured products have to compete in the national and global markets and production cost increases have a direct effect on competitiveness. Processed food, timber and paper products, computer chips, plastic and related products, and fertilizer are just a few examples of Idaho manufacturing processes that use large amounts of electricity.

Low river stream flows, lake volumes, and reservoir levels will affect Idaho's summer recreation industries. There will be adequate stream flow for the rivers in the spring, but later on, the flow will diminish and the attraction of Idaho's white waters and rapids will also diminish. There are many outfitters, lodging places, eating and drinking places, etc. that depend upon summer water activity to keep their businesses viable.

All Idaho industries and households will have to absorb the increased electrical costs. But these costs have to be expanded to all energy sources such as natural gas and gasoline as all are going up. The "energy crisis" will have employment impacts, but it is too early to define them for Idaho.

OCCUPATIONAL EMPLOYMENT & WAGES

The Idaho Department of Labor, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics, conducted the 1999 Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) employment and wage survey from October 1999 through August 2000. The data obtained from this survey is now available from the Idaho Department of Labor in both printed and electronic format. The printed publication can be obtained by contacting:

Public Affairs
Idaho Department of Labor
317 W. Main Street
Boise ID 83735
Phone: (208) 334-6168 or 1-800-772-2553
Email: wbrown@labor.state.id.us

The electronic publication can be found at:

<http://www.labor.state.id.us/lmi/wage-survey/owsmainmenu.htm>
or
http://stats.bls.gov/oes/oes_data.htm

The publication consists of the three sections described below:

- **Introduction:** The first section, comprised of this introduction, describes the methods and contents of the survey to aid the reader in understanding and using the wage information provided in this publication.
- **Wage Tables:** The second section includes wage tables for four geographic areas. The **State of Idaho** table provides data based on all 44 Idaho counties. The **Boise Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA)** table provides data based on Ada and Canyon counties in southwestern Idaho. The **Pocatello MSA** table provides data based on Bannock County in southeastern Idaho. The fourth table, **Balance of State**, provides data based on the remaining 41 counties. In each of these tables, the average (mean), entry, midpoint (median), and middle range wage levels are provided in occupational code order. The last two tables list the 20 occupations paying the highest wages, and the 20 occupations paying the lowest wages.
- **List of Occupations:** The third section provides an alphabetical listing of occupations to aid in locating specific job titles.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics' (BLS) Internet site contains a table for each occupation with employment, mean and median hourly wage, mean annual wage, and the mean relative standard error (RSE). The data is provided for the same four geographic areas as in the state publication. Both the Idaho and BLS Internet sites include definitions for all occupations.

New Classification System

This year's survey results are the first release of Idaho employment and wage estimates using the new Office of Management and Budget's Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) system. The new SOC system will be used by all federal statistical agencies for reporting occupational data. The SOC system consists of 821 detailed occupations grouped into 449 broad occupations, 96 minor groups, and 23 major groups. The OES program provides occupational employment and wage data at the major group level and detailed occupation level.

Due to the transition to the new Standard Occupational Classification system, the current data is not directly comparable with previous years' occupational employment and wage data. Previous data were based on the Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) classification system having 7 major occupational groups and 770 detailed occupations. Approximately one-half of the detailed occupations are unchanged under the new SOC system, with the other half being new SOC occupations

or occupations that are slightly different from similar occupations in the old OES classification system.

Because of the shift to the new SOC system, employment estimates are based only on the data collected in the 1999 survey. Wage estimates for detailed occupations that changed under the SOC system are based only on data collected in the 1999 survey. Wage estimates for detailed occupations that were unaffected by the SOC are based on data collected in 1997, 1998, and 1999 surveys. The 1997 and 1998 wage data have been adjusted to the 1999 reference period by using the over-the-year wage changes. As a result of the change in the coding system, employment and wage data is available only for the four geographic areas. Data for North Idaho, Southwest Idaho excluding the Boise MSA, Southcentral Idaho, and Eastern Idaho excluding the Pocatello MSA will not be available until next year.

FYI Table 1 and Table 2 on page 25 present the employment, average-wage average, entry wage, midpoint wage, and middle range wages for the top 20 highest-paid occupations and the top 20 lowest-paid occupations. The highest average wage, \$50.14, was paid to Judges, Magistrate Judges, and Magistrates. The lowest average wage, \$5.79, was paid to Ushers, Lobby Attendants, and Ticket Takers. The wage rates do not include tips, bonuses, benefits, or other payments that could affect the workers' earnings.

INCOME

Income and wages are some of the most frequently requested labor market information. Recently, the following data have become available: 1999 county per capita income, 2000 Idaho per capita income, and 2000 average covered wages.

Total Personal Income and Per Capita Income

FYI Table 3 on page 26 lists total personal income and per capita income for the United States, Idaho, and Idaho's 44 counties for 1997, 1998, and 1999. The following are highlights of 1999 total personal income and per capita income data recently released by the U.S Department of Commerce:

- Ada County had the highest total personal income at \$8,904 million.
- Blaine County had the highest per capita income at \$41,259.
- Gooding County had the largest percentage increase in total personal income and per capita income at 26.7 percent and 25.1 percent, respectively.
- Camas County had the lowest total personal income at \$18.6 million.
- Madison County had the lowest per capita income at \$14,861, and ranked 44th in the State in both 1997 and 1998, also.

- None of Idaho's counties experienced a decrease in total personal income or per capita income between 1998 and 1999.
- Caribou County had the smallest percentage increase in total personal income and per capita income at 2.2 percent and 2.4 percent, respectively, resulting in a 1999 per capita income of \$20,068.
- Ada and Blaine counties were the only Idaho counties with a per capita income that exceeded the national level of \$28,546.
- Five additional counties—Gooding, Nez Perce, Valley, Jerome, and Custer—had a per capita income that exceeded the state level of \$22,871.
- The average wage in *State Government* had the smallest increase, up 2.2 percent in 2000. There were no Idaho industries that reported a decrease in average wages between 1999 and 2000.

Average covered wage information for counties can be accessed on the Idaho Department of Labor's Internet site at: <http://www.labor.state.id.us/lmi/es202/202home.htm>.

FYI Table 4 on page 27 lists total personal income and per capita income for the United States and Idaho for 1998, 1999, and 2000. The following are highlights of 2000 total personal income and per capita income data recently released, with county data lagging the state data by a year.

- Idaho's total personal income increased 15.9 percent between 1998 and 2000, in comparison to a 13.1 percent growth for the nation.
- Idaho's total personal income in 2000 was \$31.3 billion.
- Idaho's per capita income in 2000, \$24,180, was up 16.0 percent compared to 1998—nearly double the national increase of 8.6 percent during the two-year period.
- Idaho's per capita income was 81.4 percent of the nation's \$29,676.

Average Covered Wages

FYI Table 5 on page 27 lists average covered wages by major industry for the state for 1999 and 2000. The data is derived from the quarterly reports of employment and wages filed by employers covered by Idaho's Unemployment Insurance Law. Highlights of the 2000 data that were recently released by the Idaho Department of Labor include the following:

- The average wage for all industries in 2000 was \$27,712, up 6.4 percent from 1999.
- *Other Manufacturing* had the highest average wage, \$51,275, up 21.8 percent from 1999. This was also the largest percent increase. This industrial category includes *Electronic & Other Electrical Equipment & Components, except Computer Equipment*, which experienced a 27 percent increase in wages with only a 4 percent increase in employment.
- *Retail Trade* had the lowest average wage, \$16,329, up 3.3 percent from 1999.

FYI Table 1: Top 20 Occupations with the Highest Average Wages — State of Idaho

Job Code (SOC)	Occupation	Employment	Average Wage \$	Entry Wage \$	Midpoint Wage \$	Middle Range Wage \$	
23-1023	Judges, magistrate judges, and magistrates	80	50.14	38.43	42.87	38.69	*
29-1061	Anesthesiologists	*	41.78	20.88	42.36	23.95	54.58
11-1011	Chief executives	3,100	40.96	21.32	38.97	27.42	58.06
11-9041	Engineering managers	1,010	40.47	26.71	41.01	31.57	51.03
29-1020	Dentists	30	40.17	28.58	40.87	30.54	50.72
41-3031	Securities, commodities, and financial services sales agents	430	36.04	17.18	36.89	20.55	46.43
15-1031	Computer software engineers, applications	1,140	35.93	24.68	32.68	27.18	41.74
29-1041	Optometrists	140	35.70	18.87	33.42	19.47	51.47
11-9031	Education administrators, preschool and child care center/program	130	34.82	26.27	36.69	31.58	40.63
17-2112	Industrial engineers	600	34.01	25.51	34.08	28.99	40.49
11-2021	Marketing managers	810	33.11	19.32	26.87	22.50	45.52
15-1032	Computer software engineers, systems software	1,370	32.81	25.30	32.85	27.85	39.01
23-1011	Lawyers	1,540	32.55	19.30	26.75	20.68	39.52
11-3021	Computer and information systems managers	770	32.49	17.94	32.11	20.63	42.31
17-2061	Computer hardware engineers	1,720	31.51	24.59	30.55	26.23	35.18
15-1011	Computer and information scientists, research	*	30.26	20.94	31.35	24.02	37.58
17-2199	Engineers, all other	*	30.08	22.95	29.10	24.88	33.34
17-2041	Chemical engineers	*	29.90	24.47	32.17	25.53	38.98
19-2099	Physical scientists, all other	90	29.58	20.25	31.05	25.90	36.10
17-2071	Electrical engineers	*	29.07	20.59	28.61	23.09	34.13

* Estimates Not Available.

FYI Table 1: Top 20 Occupations with the Lowest Average Wages — State of Idaho

Job Code (SOC)	Occupation	Employment	Average Wage \$	Entry Wage \$	Midpoint Wage \$	Middle Range Wage \$	
39-3031	Ushers, lobby attendants, and ticket takers	190	5.79	5.70	5.89	5.65	6.15
35-3031	Waiters and waitresses	9,240	5.93	5.71	5.94	5.68	6.34
31-9096	Veterinary assistants and laboratory animal caretakers	270	5.96	5.75	6.06	5.60	6.51
35-9011	Dining room and cafeteria attendants and bartender helpers	2,680	5.99	5.77	6.08	5.70	6.58
35-9031	Hosts and hostesses, restaurant, lounge, and coffee shop	2,510	6.12	5.72	6.02	5.70	6.62
45-2041	Graders and sorters, agricultural products	2,310	6.15	5.74	6.04	5.71	6.60
35-3022	Counter attendants, cafeteria, food concession, and coffee shop	1,560	6.21	5.66	5.95	5.70	6.50
35-3021	Combined food preparation and serving workers, including fast food	8,780	6.33	5.73	6.12	5.75	6.79
35-2011	Cooks, fast food	2,150	6.40	5.68	6.09	5.76	7.04
35-9099	Food preparation and serving related workers, all other	660	6.44	5.75	6.24	5.70	6.91
35-3011	Bartenders	1,840	6.45	5.75	6.33	5.81	7.23
39-9021	Personal and home care aides	580	6.48	5.78	6.42	5.87	7.15
35-9021	Dishwashers	2,530	6.50	5.75	6.38	5.77	7.35
39-9011	Child care workers	760	6.50	5.74	6.32	5.81	7.19
45-2092	Farmworkers and laborers, crop, nursery, and greenhouse	1,410	6.59	5.75	6.27	5.71	7.19
37-2012	Maids and housekeeping cleaners	3,940	6.67	5.73	6.48	5.86	7.58
35-2021	Food preparation workers	4,280	6.79	5.75	6.50	5.83	7.79
39-2021	Nonfarm animal caretakers	370	6.79	5.75	6.30	5.72	7.30
39-6011	Baggage porters and bellhops	100	6.84	5.73	6.39	5.81	7.41
53-7061	Cleaners of vehicles and equipment	2,350	6.84	5.71	6.40	5.82	7.70

* Estimates Not Available.

**FYI Table 3: Total Personal Income and Per Capita Personal Income
United States, State of Idaho, and Idaho Counties**

Area Name	Total Personal Income (TPI) (\$ thousands)			TPI % Change 1997-99**	Per Capita Personal Income (PCPI)			PCPI % Change 1997-99**	State PCPI Rank 1999
	1997	1998	1999		1997	1998	1999		
United States*	\$6,928,545,000	\$7,383,476,000	\$7,784,137,000	12.3	\$25,874	\$27,321	\$28,546		
Metropolitan portion	5,874,694,047	6,275,812,288	6,630,148,565	12.9	27,408	28,987	30,317		
Nonmetropolitan portion	1,053,850,953	1,107,663,712	1,153,988,435	9.5	19,719	20,611	21,372		
Idaho	\$25,226,342	\$26,984,087	\$28,627,034	13.5	\$20,837	\$21,922	\$22,871		
Metropolitan portion	10,973,265	11,828,043	12,694,631	5.0	23,985	25,151	26,298		
Nonmetropolitan portion	14,253,077	15,156,044	15,932,403	5.9	18,925	19,925	20,719		
Boise City MSA	9,574,520	10,371,873	11,178,145	5.9	24,963	26,191	27,408		
Blaine	638,753	672,231	714,857	11.9	37,204	39,076	41,259	10.9	1
Ada	7,582,881	8,217,759	8,904,479	17.4	28,400	29,815	31,420	10.6	2
Gooding	275,657	326,128	349,349	26.7	20,312	23,878	25,420	25.1	3
Nez Perce	824,304	862,385	905,087	9.8	22,381	23,408	24,519	9.6	4
Valley	176,806	184,172	191,653	8.4	21,893	22,993	24,390	11.4	5
Jerome	343,214	398,569	424,391	23.7	19,573	22,196	23,434	19.7	6
Custer	90,361	91,667	94,402	4.5	21,281	22,407	23,087	8.5	7
Kootenai	2,061,387	2,208,953	2,361,038	14.5	20,862	21,805	22,527	8.0	8
Bonneville	1,667,998	1,746,482	1,827,084	9.5	20,845	21,642	22,408	7.5	9
Clark	16,509	16,967	20,106	21.8	19,677	19,085	22,022	11.9	10
Elmore	494,997	525,339	561,419	13.4	20,058	20,716	21,907	9.2	11
Camas	16,979	18,604	18,671	10.0	20,310	22,121	21,585	6.3	12
Boise	98,154	107,118	114,146	16.3	19,471	20,917	21,492	10.4	13
Latah	640,117	673,443	695,397	8.6	19,303	20,615	21,391	10.8	14
Twin Falls	1,222,554	1,301,193	1,342,643	9.8	19,876	20,912	21,322	7.3	15
Cassia	392,098	423,543	456,706	16.5	18,286	19,862	21,170	15.8	16
Bannock	1,398,745	1,456,170	1,516,486	8.4	18,917	19,606	20,252	7.1	17
Caribou	142,815	144,524	145,957	2.2	19,601	19,522	20,068	2.4	18
Lincoln	64,786	71,678	76,308	17.8	17,071	18,972	19,877	16.4	19
Shoshone	250,930	263,971	265,238	5.7	17,987	19,041	19,426	8.0	20
Butte	54,151	57,421	58,360	7.8	17,502	18,882	19,376	10.7	21
Lewis	68,810	72,942	75,208	9.3	17,074	18,258	19,074	11.7	22
Benewah	164,766	167,405	172,833	4.9	18,348	18,420	19,064	3.9	23
Bonner	598,500	643,332	683,734	14.2	17,233	18,205	18,955	10.0	24
Lemhi	144,263	149,442	150,672	4.4	17,890	18,585	18,886	5.6	25
Clearwater	166,827	169,020	172,481	3.4	17,740	18,083	18,429	3.9	26
Canyon	1,991,639	2,154,114	2,273,666	14.2	17,088	17,894	18,271	6.9	27
Adams	64,456	67,222	68,967	7.0	16,971	17,760	18,212	7.3	28
Payette	319,782	352,922	377,906	18.2	15,845	17,258	18,128	14.4	29
Gem	246,050	260,591	273,797	11.3	17,019	17,549	18,078	6.2	30
Power	138,502	139,366	151,502	9.4	16,841	16,568	18,027	7.0	31
Idaho	243,644	258,551	265,874	9.1	16,201	17,229	17,690	9.2	32
Bingham	662,333	698,320	742,322	12.1	15,976	16,696	17,621	10.3	33
Boundary	154,514	165,582	173,696	12.4	15,711	16,862	17,410	10.8	34
Minidoka	317,758	327,899	343,914	8.2	15,496	16,229	16,955	9.4	35
Jefferson	300,738	322,974	338,084	12.4	15,726	16,534	16,947	7.8	36
Owyhee	155,821	168,390	171,738	10.2	15,426	16,422	16,504	7.0	37
Washington	155,240	166,199	165,539	6.6	15,445	16,265	16,075	4.1	38
Fremont (incl. Yellowstone)	174,452	180,230	186,312	6.8	14,848	15,103	15,670	5.5	39
Bear Lake	94,876	100,448	102,662	8.2	14,523	15,427	15,647	7.7	40
Franklin	153,488	168,817	175,364	14.3	14,175	15,191	15,451	9.0	41
Oneida	59,153	61,861	62,602	5.8	14,799	15,350	15,412	4.1	42
Teton	71,827	80,062	85,732	19.4	13,583	14,583	15,020	10.6	43
Madison	324,707	340,081	368,652	13.5	13,054	13,536	14,861	13.8	44

Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Department of Commerce, Economics and Statistics Administration, May 2001

* The personal income level shown for the United States is derived as the sum of the county estimates; it differs from the national income and produce accounts (NIPA) estimate of personal income because by definition, it omits the earnings of Federal civilian and military personnel stationed abroad and of U.S. residents employed abroad temporarily by private U.S. firms. It can also differ from NIPA estimates because of different data sources and revision schedules.

** Percent change was calculated from unrounded data.

**FYI Table 4: Total Personal Income and Per Capita Personal Income
United States and State of Idaho**

Area Name	Total Personal Income (TPI) (\$ thousands)			TPI Change 1998-2000	%	Per Capita Personal Income (PCPI)		
	1998	1999	2000			1998	1999	2000
United States	\$7,383,476,000	\$7,784,137,000	\$8,351,511,681		13.1	\$27,321	\$28,546	\$29,676
Idaho	\$26,984,087	\$28,627,034	\$31,287,249		15.9	\$20,837	\$21,922	\$24,180

A note on per capita personal income and population.

The 2000 per capita personal income estimates in this release are based on the April 1, 2000 decennial census population counts as released by the Census Bureau December 28, 2000. Per capita personal income for 1991–99 are not shown because the Census Bureau has not yet published state population estimates for the intercensal years that are consistent with the decennial census counts. In September, when BEA regularly revises state personal income 1998–2000, BEA will also release estimates of state per capita personal income for 1991–99.

**FYI Table 5:
Average Annual Covered Wages**

	2000	1999	Percent Change
Total All Industries	\$27,712	\$26,049	6.4
Total exc Federal	\$27,395	\$25,723	6.5
Agriculture	\$19,470	\$18,628	4.5
Mining & Construction	\$29,733	\$28,722	3.5
Mining	\$41,672	\$39,708	4.9
Construction	\$28,939	\$27,909	3.7
Manufacturing	\$43,754	\$37,583	16.4
Food Products	\$29,056	\$28,378	2.4
Lumber & Wood Products	\$35,647	\$34,168	4.3
Other Manufacturing	\$51,275	\$42,093	21.8
Transportation, Communications, & Utilities	\$31,741	\$30,569	3.8
Trade	\$19,884	\$19,172	3.7
Wholesale Trade	\$31,630	\$30,029	5.3
Retail Trade	\$16,329	\$15,814	3.3
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	\$33,404	\$31,570	5.8
Services	\$25,177	\$23,977	5.0
Government	\$28,073	\$27,068	3.7
State	\$30,404	\$29,759	2.2
Local	\$24,439	\$23,385	4.5
Federal	\$40,702	\$39,490	3.1

Source: Annual Report of Covered Employment & Wages, Idaho Department of Labor, June 2001

Glossary of Labor Market Terms

Agriculture Employment: Persons on agriculture payrolls who work or receive pay for any period during the survey week. This includes owners, operators, unpaid family members who work at least 15 hours a week, and hired laborers.

Average Hourly Earnings/Average Weekly Hours: The average total money earnings earned by production or non-supervisory workers for selected industries. The average number of hours worked by production or non-supervisory workers including overtime, paid vacation, and sick leave. The data is collected for the week including the 12th of the month.

Average Weekly Earnings: Average Hourly Earnings multiplied by Average Weekly Hours.

Civilian Labor Force: A count of non-institutional persons 16 years of age and over residing within a specific geographic area, excluding members of armed forces, who are classified as employed, unemployed and seeking employment, or involved in a labor dispute.

Consumer Price Index (CPI): A national index measuring changes over time in the price of a fixed market basket of goods and services. There are two indexes—the All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) represents the buying habits of about 80 percent of the non-institutional population of the United States, and the Urban Wage & Clerical Workers (CPI-W) represents 40 percent of the population.

Covered Employers: Employers who are subject to state and federal Unemployment Insurance laws.

Durable Goods: Also known as “hard goods” because they include items manufactured or provided by wholesalers with a normal life expectancy of three years or more.

Employed: Individuals, 16 years of age or older, who worked at least 1 hour for pay or profit or worked at least 15 unpaid hours in a family business during the week including the 12th day of the month. Individuals are also counted as employed if they had a job but did not work because they were: ill, on vacation, in a labor dispute, prevented from working because of bad weather, or temporarily absent for similar reasons.

Initial Claim: Any notice of unemployment filed to request (1) a determination of entitlement to and eligibility for compensation or (2) a second or subsequent period of unemployment within a benefit year or period of eligibility.

Labor Market Area (LMA): An area that consists of a central city or cities and the surrounding territory within commuting distance. It is an economically integrated geo-

graphic area within which individuals can reside and find employment without changing place of residence. Idaho has nine LMAs.

Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA): An area that has either a city with a population of at least 50,000 or a Bureau of Census urbanized area of at least 50,000 and a total metropolitan area of at least 100,000. The Office of Management and Budget designates the MSAs. There are two MSAs in Idaho—Boise City (including Ada and Canyon counties) and Pocatello City (including Bannock County).

Nonfarm Wage & Salary Employment: Persons on non-farm establishment payrolls (including employees on paid sick leave, paid holiday, or paid vacation) who work or receive pay for any part of the week including the 12th of the month. It is a count of jobs by place of work. It does not include self-employed, unpaid volunteer or family workers, domestic workers in households, military personnel and persons who are laid off, on leave without pay, or on strike for the entire reference period.

Nondurable Goods: Also known as “soft goods” because they include items manufactured or provided by wholesalers that generally last for only a short period of time (three years or less).

Seasonally Adjusted: Data is seasonally adjusted to remove the impact of regular events that occur at the same time every year such as the effect of cold weather on outdoor activities, the Christmas holiday, or the summer influx of youth into the labor market.

Unemployed: Those individuals, 16 years of age or older, who do not have a job but are available for work and actively seeking work during the week including the 12th of the month. The only exceptions to these criteria are individuals who are waiting to be recalled from a layoff and individuals waiting to report to a new job within 30 days—these, too, are considered unemployed.

Unemployment Insurance: Unemployment Insurance is a program for the accumulation of funds paid by employers, to be used for the payment of Unemployment Insurance to workers during periods of unemployment which are beyond their control.

Unemployment Rate: The number of persons unemployed expressed as a percentage of the labor force.

Weekly Benefit Amount: The amount payable to a claimant for a compensable week of total unemployment.

Weeks Claimed: The number of weeks that unemployed workers claimed Unemployment Insurance benefits.

Weeks Compensated: The number of weeks for which compensation was actually paid.

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